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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I. CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

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KARPOV SUGGESTS 'EQUAL' CONVENTIONAL FORCE REDUCTION

LD202239 London BBC Television Network in English 1910 GMT 18 May 87

[From the "Panorama" program entitled "Gorbachev and the Defense of Europe" presented by Fred Emery; including interview with "chief Soviet arms negotiator" Viktor Karpov, identified by screen caption, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Karpov] We suggest that NATO and the Warsaw Pact reduce their forces to equal and minimum levels, minimum levels that will exclude waging any offensive operations against each other, so that the reductions will bring about such forces on both sides that will be sufficient only for defense. If we establish the lines that the sides will follow in their reductions of the forces, to agreed levels and open them, all the regions, for inspection, we can have the guarantees that the reductions are brought out exactly as it was prescribed.

[Correspondent] So the principle of inspection would be extended to conventional forces...

[Karpov, interrupting] Yes, yes.

[Correspondent] ...on a wide scale, across Europe?

[Karpov] Yes, just across all Europe from Atlantic to the Urals.

[Correspondent] So, you would be willing to accept American inspectors traveling throughout the European part of the Soviet Union?

[Karpov] Yes, in our inspection, traveling through Britain. [passage omitted]

[Karpov] You see, we feel that the situation in Europe, nuclearized Europe, is very dangerous. In fact, we see the danger also not only in the presence of those missiles and all other nuclear weapons but in the fact that the military doctrine of NATO is the doctrine of use of nuclear weapons, in any conflict. We might imagine even a conflict that will be provoked by NATO forces and will lead to a nuclear conflict. So we feel that alongside with the elimination of nuclear forces in Europe, we should build up a system of security that will exclude the use of force in Europe, any force, conventional or nuclear. [passage omitted]

[Karpov] I think the best choice is to accept the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe, together with the elimination of SRINF missiles so that we can build on that a new system of security of the European Continent which will be accompanied also, not only by the reductions, but by reductions in the conventional forces.

[Correspondent] And if they don't accept that?

[Karpov] So, the possibility will be lost. The unique may be possible and we are not to be blamed for that. [passage omitted]

Western Reaction

LD201124 London BBC World Service in English 0115 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] The Soviet Union has made another far-reaching surprise offer to the West -- this time a drastic reduction of conventional forces by both East and West to such small numbers they could be used only for defense and never for offensive operations. And it's offered to allow United States military inspectors to travel throughout the European part of the Soviet Union to check the agreement was being carried out. The offer came from one of the Soviet Union's veteran negotiators, Mr Viktor Karpov, director of arms control for the Soviet Foreign Ministry in a BBC television interview in Moscow. Immediate Western reaction was skeptical, as our defense correspondent Harold Briley reports:

[Briley] This latest Soviet disarmament offer is as startling at first sight as its other recent offers to cut back nuclear arsenals. This time it involves conventional forces in Europe in which the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies have overwhelming superiority in troops, tanks, artillery and frontline aircraft. That's what the West fears most and why NATO insists on keeping nuclear weapons to deter attack it cannot stem with inferior conventional forces. But now Mr Karpov has suggested NATO and the Warsaw Pact reduce their conventional forces to what he called equal and minimum levels, sufficient only for defence but not powerful enough to wage offensive operations. To guarantee the cuts were made, Mr Karpov said the whole region from the Atlantic to the Urals could be opened up to inspecton. He said the Soviet Union would accept U.S. military inspectors travelling throughout the European part of the Soviet Union and Soviet inspectors would travel West Europe, including Britain. West Germany's immediate reaction as the NATO nation most vulnerable to both conventional and nuclear attack came from its defense minister, Mr Woerner, who declared he'd be very satisfied if the offer were repeated at the negotiating table and it could be verified. But he was skeptical because previous public Soviet offers like this had not been followed up in negotiations. Britain's defense secretary, Mr George Younger, was equally doubtful. Britain, he said, would discuss such an offer very willingly, very readily and very quickly, but the Russians had always resolutely refused previously as the West had sought conventional force reductions for years and years. Mr Younger said Mr Karpov had been very smooth, talking of inspecton, but they previously offered inspection only in Russian aircraft with Russian guides excluding security areas, which was not worth having. There'd have to be real safety and effective verification to make sure the Russians did not cheat.

'REASON FOR HOPE' IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS REDUCTION

PM201010 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 9 May 87 p 20

[Interview with Yuriy Kashlev, head of Soviet delegation at Vienna conventional arms reduction talks, by APN correspondent Dmitriy Ardamatskiy in Vienna; date not given]

[Text] Vienna -- [Ardamatskiy] The third and final session of the Vienna conference has just opened. What prospects does it offer?

[Kashlev] There is reason for hope in the fact that nobody now -- unlike at previous times -- questions the importance and necessity of the European process to strengthen security and cooperation on the continent. In other words, the basis now exists for the participants in the conference to approve a constructive final document to continue developing the spirit of Helsinki.

Without dismissing the importance of other aspects of this process, I believe that priority must be given to resolving the problem of security, both political and military. Poland's proposal of confidence-building and disarmament measures in Europe is precisely designed to attain a new level and to strengthen political and military detente. In other words, we believe that the Vienna conference must recommend a continuation of the Stockholm conference, which in the next phase would establish real confidence-building and disarmament measures.

However, we are seriously worried by the fact that the NATO participants in the conference have not yet defined their position on the politicomilitary problems. Furthermore the West has made no proposals concerning matters of military detente.

[Ardamatskiy] Nevertheless consultations have begun between Warsaw Pact and NATO countries on the future reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe.

[Kashlev] True, but the NATO countries do not want these consultations to take place within the framework of the European process. They are even insisting that they take place at the embassies of NATO or Warsaw Pact countries and under no circumstances within the context of the Vienna conference. However it would be natural for the negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe to be a continuation of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures (Stockholm I), which was a success and took place on a European basis.

Second, the difficulty is that NATO flatly refuses to accept that the discussion of conventional arms issues and the results of this discussion take acount of the opinion and voice of Europe's neutral and nonaligned states.

We do not accept NATO circles' attempts to classify the neutral and nonaligned states as second-class countries. Do they not particpate with equal rights in the European process? Did they not participate in the Stockholm conference?

[Ardamatskiy] Pending the solution of this problem, how have the two blocs' positions been defined?

[Kashlev] The Warsaw Pact countries' position is as follows: They declare themselves in favor of a mutual and substantial reduction of conventional weapons in Europe in stages, from the Atlantic to the Urals, and in favor of European stability at a much lower military level. However, we are very worried by NATO's stance, which could frustrate all the efforts in this field. The NATO representatives evade the world "reductions" and instead talk about "equalization" of forces, the elimination of the "imbalance" supposedly reflected in the Warsaw Pact forces' superiority over the NATO forces.

There is a certain asymmetry, as there has always been, and it is due to differences in the structure of the NATO and Warsaw Pact Armed Forces, to geographical factors, and so forth. But this does not mean that there is not an overall balance of forces between them.

The NATO countries do not include the French and Spanish Armed Forces in their calculations. Why not? Are they neutral countries? By no means. By the same token, the Warsaw Pact could exclude the Polish and Czechoslovak Armed Forces from its calculations and insist that NATO enjoys a superiority in conventional forces.

NATO 'BARRIERS' TO INF ACCORD SEEN AFTER MEETING

PM201520 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Vikentiy Matveyev article under the rubric "Apt Remarks": "The Atlantic Refrigerator"]

[Text] Streams of frosty air are being wafted into the political atmosphere on the European Continent from NATO headquartrs. That is how the line of the bloc's leading organs with regard to the problem of ridding the continent of nuclear weapons should be defined. This problem is the subject of wide debate today in Western Europe as a realistic, practical task whose implementation will, of course, require major, joint steps by all interested governments.

The new Soviet foreign policy initiatives, in the opinion both of influential political circles in the West and of broad strata of the public, pave the way forward along this major highway. They accord fully with what was discussed at the Soviet-U.S. summit in Reykjavik. The removal from Europe of all the medium-range missiles of the United States and the USSR, according to recent official statements, is seen in Washington as something that is desirable and feasible without long delays. On our side, readiness has been expressed to take into account the legitimate wishes of governments in Western Europe also with regard to an accord on the categories of shorter-range missile weapons.

But time is passing. In the NATO leading organs, where, it is reported, a coordinated response to the Soviet proposals is to be formulated, they continue to follow what can only be described as tactics of procrastination and obstruction.

Thus U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger has just called on Western governments "not to be in a hurry to discuss these problems and all that they involve."

The Pentagon chief took part in the session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group, which ended on 15 May in Stavanger, Norway. After the meeting a U.S. journalist asked him a very revealing question: To what extent was the group's final communique the result of his "ability to persuade the partners?" The journalist put it tactfully, but the thought is clear. Indeed, this document bears the clear imprint of "influence" on its compilers by the Pentagon chief.

It says in black and white that NATO "will preserve and improve its nuclear forces." Unsubstantiated claims are made that the other side (the USSR) has supposedly proposed "vague commitments in regard to monitoring," although the document's authors must know very well what detailed, strict propositions were put forward by the Soviet delegation at the Geneva talks on the question of verifying the observance of the accord under consideration.

Finally, mention should be made of the tactic of "maximizing" the versions of a possible Soviet-U.S. agreement by including in it a wide spectrum of systems within the military arsenals. In practice it is a question of hampering the accord that had really begun to take shape, by overloading the agenda for talks. The influential Danish newspaper BERLINGSKE TIDENDE observed rightly: Anyone who operates according to the principle "all or nothing" achieves nothing, and probably does not want to achieve anything, either." [quotation marks as published]

It is not surprising that it is within the NATO framework that an attempt has been made to erect barriers in the path of the accord expected both by broad strata of the public and by governments in Western Europe. [paragraph continues]

Suffice it to point out that in official circles in London, Brussels, Rome, Madrid, and Lisbon some degree of support was expressed for efforts to lower the level of nuclear confrontation in Europe.

It was Weinberger, again, who stated in an interview after the NATO group's meeting in Stavanger that the bloc should preserve the potential for a nuclear strike. As always, he referred to the "Soviet threat." Such claims have never sounded more hollow than they do now. Everyone can see who is holding onto the weapons of mass destruction, regarding them not as an evil, but a "good." Everyone can see who is opposed to any steps aimed at curbing the race for such weapons.

BEGLOV REVIEWS PROGRESS OF GENEVA INF TALKS

PM201329 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 20, 17 May 87 p 5

[Spartak Beglov Article: "Geneva -- Moment of Reckoning. How Talks on Medium-Range Missiles Are Progressing"]

[Text] "We are beginning to liquidate nuclear weapons and this is the essence of what is happening at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva," said Yuliy Vorontsov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, head of the Soviet delegation at the talks, in a talk with us, a group of Soviet journalists. "In the last 42 years a stereotyped form of thinking has been artificially moulded, according to which the A-bomb is the main bulwark of security. Very many people started clutching to this unnatural situation and at these weapons as if life were impossible without them. Whereas in real life we must fear precisely the fact that people can grow reconciled to the A-bomb as something inevitable, because the A-bomb is a tool for mankind's suicide. That's why we think that the radical shift in the question of medium-range missiles is a very important beginning, and we'll spare no effort for signing a relevant agreement."

Arriving in Geneva, I learned from the old-timers that the number of foreign correspondents in the city has grown by at least 50 percent in the last two years. But, then, that's as it should be. Moscow's latest initiatives resulted in the Soviet-U.S. dialogue on disarmament acquiring a new content and the achievement of the first ever agreement on the liquidation of a whole class of nuclear weapons becoming feasible. Practically, every day of the week on the junction of April and May brought some significant event. On April 27 the Soviet delegation put forward the draft agreement on the liquidation of medium-range missiles [MRM]. On May 4 accord was reached at the parallel Soviet-U.S. talks (they were conducted, on the Soviet side, by A. Obukhov, ambassador at large, and on the U.S. side -- by R. Perle, assistant secretary of defense, and R. Linhard, special assistant to the President) on setting up centres on reducing the nuclear danger in Moscow and Washington.

Lastly, the latest (the 8th) round of talks on nuclear and space arms, started on May 5. The Soviet side proposed to agree upon the key provisions of accords on a number of major disarmament problems, including cuts of strategic attack arsenals and strengthening of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Missile Defence (ABM).

Max Kampelman, head of the U.S. delegation, deemed it necessary at his very first meeting with journalists upon arriving in Geneva, to stress the big impulse provided for the talks by the results of the conversation G. Shultz had with the Soviet leadership. He singled out the question on the medium-range missiles and said that the group elaborating the agreement on the liquidation of these missiles would now be able to work on a "stepped-up schedule." [paragraph continues]

A. Obukhov, deputy head of the Soviet delegation, stressed, on his part, that all the prerequisites were here for the Treaty on the MRM to be translated into reality already this year. He said that in its proposals the Soviet side has taken into account everything constructive that, in its opinion, was contained in the previously tabled U.S. proposals. This includes - stage-by-stage reduction of arms; a common attitude toward defining the weapons to be reduced; the taking into account of both deployed and not deployed weapons; the abidance by the Reykjavik formula on the liquidation in the course of five years of all the MRMs in Europe, with the preservation of only 100 warheads, on each side, on such missiles in the Asian part of the USSR and on U.S. territory.

However, the U.S. standstill has moments with which the Soviet side cannot agree. For example, the procedure, offered by the U.S. side, envisages that only the Soviet missiles would be liquidated at the first two stages, whereas the U.S. side would even have the opportunity of even building up its MRM arsenals. "Our principle is - no one is to get unilateral advantages, and the participation in the reduction should be mutual." The U.S. side's intention to re-equip the Pershing-2 missiles into shorter-range missiles and to get an opportunity to transfer the cruise missiles from land bases to the sea is also unacceptable. The same goes for the intention to deploy the remaining 100 warheads in Alaska, i.e., within the range of the USSR territory. The Soviet diplomat said that this would led only to the emergence of one more source of danger in that area of the globe.

I asked Maynard Glitman, a U.S. diplomat, who leads the U.S. group at the talks on MRM: "How well is the line taken by the U.S. delegation at these talks agreed upon with the stand taken by the U.S. NATO allies on these questions?" In answer I heard that the U.S. side intends to conduct talks, but, at the same time, to keep an eye on how the U.S. allies would react ultimately to the Soviet proposals.

In the meanwhile, H. Kohl, FRG Chancellor, and J. Chirac, French Prime Minister, met in Strasbourg, early in May, and declared that their ultimate joint stand could be determined only as the result of a study of the text of the Soviet proposals. But, as the head of the French Government declared, the allies had no complete Soviet text at this disposal.

I drew A. Obukhov's attention to this declaration. "The Soviet side treats with understanding the fact that the West's representatives need some time to discuss and size up our proposals," he said. "However, the problem, which, supposedly, arose of being unable to get to know the text of the Soviet proposals, is obviously far-fetched. The U.S. representatives regularly visit the NATO HQ and keep their allies informed of everything that is going on in Geneva.

"However much of a paradox it may seem, it is precisely those NATO politicians who had been rooting for the 'zero option' literally yesterday on medium-range missiles, who are very much alarmed today when a breakthrough to this decision has been really made."

That is why the West put up the question on battlefield-operational weapons, with an obvious calculation of offering a pretext to the U.S. side for getting these weapons. This is exactly what some U.S. allies have in mind when they start speaking of the Americans' "right to equality". And Washington seeks additional opportunities for drawing its allies to work on the SDI. But Yuliy Vorontsov stressed: "Our stand on medium-range and battlefield-tactical missiles in Europe is no rearming. If we're to have parity, then only on the zero level." This means no transforming of Pershing-2 into Pershing -1B missiles. In the context of the decisions on shorter-range missiles there must be no room in Europe for U.S. nuclear warheads to equip the West German Pershing-1A missiles.

He goes on to say: "Can we expect that the agreement on medium-range missiles, if it is signed, will have a favourable effect also on the settlement of other questions of nuclear disarmament, in particular, on the reduction of strategic attack arms? Yes, the liquidation of medium-range missiles provides a good stimulus for reduction of strategic arms and is an important component of the entire Soviet programme for the stage-by-stage liquidation of nuclear arms by 2000. The process of dismantling and liquidation of medium-range missiles provides good know-how in dealing with the entire package of questions of nuclear disarmament. Let's take, for example, the problem of elaboration of verification measures. I think, that in our proposals on their questions we go even further than the Americans do. In particular, this is true in the field of control over the enterprises which make medium-range missiles. According to the U.S. proposals, the inspectors get only as far as the entrance to the enterprises. But we propose that they be given access to the enterprises themselves.

"We'd like to see how the missiles are being liquidated, how they are being dismantled - all this under the eyes of the Americans and us. This would be a good beginning for the liquidation of all nuclear weapons."

UK FOREIGN OFFICE CITED ON USSR INF PROPOSALS

PM201517 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "London's Position"]

[Text] London, 15 May -- A spokesman for the British Foreign Office in London has said that the British Government may agree to the double zero option regarding medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles on condition that the corresponding guarantees of Western security are ensured. Consultations on this subject are now in progress in NATO with the aim of reaching a definitive decision on the stand to be taken, the Foreign Office spokesman said. He also said that the British Government is making every effort to bring about the conclusion of an agreement.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES notes that this is the first time Britain has made it clearly understood that it is prepared in principle to approve the Soviet proposal -- the double zero option, which envisages removing nuclear missiles from Europe. This statement by the British Foreign Office has put an end to the rumors that have been circulating for several weeks regarding Britain's attitude to the USSR proposals.

The press reports that the discussion of the stand to be taken by the North Atlantic alliance regarding medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles will be continued at the NATO Council session in Reykjavik on 11-12 June.

PYADYSHEV'S 19 MAY FOREIGN MINISTRY NEWS CONFERENCE

USSR Envoy-Peres Meeting

LD191401 Moscow TASS in English 1355 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS -- Some Western news agencies quote an ananymous Israeli "official representative" in spreading the tendentious information on the meeting held in Washington on May 17 between the Soviet ambassador to the USA and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, said Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry. Addressing a briefing for newsmen here today, he noted, that, contrary to the facts, it is claimed, in particular, that the Soviet side almost initiated the meeting, while the contents and the very essence of the conversation are presented in a distorted light.

During the meeting of the Soviet ambassador with the Israeli minister, which was held on the latter's initiative, the Soviet side laid its main emphasis on the problem of the Middle East settlement, Boris Pyadyshev said. The Soviet side stressed that just peace can be achieved in the Middle East only by collective efforts. The only way to that is the convocation of an international conference as an effective and plenipotentiary forum opening a real prospect for a just and lasting peace in the region with due regard for the legitimate interests of all the states involved.

As far as relations between the USSR and Israel are concerned, and these questions were raised by the Israeli minister, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said, it was stated from our side that progress in relations with that country is possible only within the framework of Middle East settlement.

Answering the questions of newsmen about the evaluation of the situation in Fiji, Boris Pyadyshev said that the overthrow of a lawfully elected government, the flouting of democratic norms and freedoms in any state, action against the will of the majority of the people cannot but be a source of concern.

U.S. ABM Treaty Interpretation

LD191406 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1314 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 19 May (TASS) -- Concerning the report published a few days ago by the U.S. Administration of a State Department legal advisor with reasons for a "broad" interpretation of the ABM Treaty, Boris Pyadishev, first deputy head of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate said today at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry Press Center that this is not the first attempt of this sort. It is known, he said, that in October 1985 the State Department already tried to prove the admissibility of a "broad" interpretation, citing for this purpose materials from congressional hearings during the ratification of the ABM Treaty. However, an objective analysis of these materials and of official statements of the U.S. Administration confirmed the spirit and letter of the ABM Treaty, under which a "broad" interpretation has no grounds.

Now in a new report, the same legal adviser from the U.S. State Department is trying to use certain working details of Soviet-U.S. talks in formulating an ABM Treaty. Even setting aside the ethical issue of unilaterally revealing materials that had hitherto been considered confidential, certain uncoordinated reports by the U.S. delegation on the progress of the talks were clearly selected and prepared so as to ensure that they corresponded with the designs of the report's compilers, stressed the representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

Nonetheless, not one of the materials cited by the U.S. delegation mentions that either side at any time in the talks cast doubt on the pledge not to create [sozdavat], test, or deploy sea, air, space, or mobile ground based ABM systems or components. All the records of the U.S. delegation now published concern discussions by the sides at the talks of only the question of possible future ABM systems or components based on different principles of physics which are capable of replacing components of the system permitted under the treaty -- stationary ground bases in a certain area -- but certainly not components of systems which are banned under the treaty -- that is, sea, air, space or mobile land-based.

So even the new report could not cast doubt on the real content of the ABM Treaty, which the USSR and the United States used as a starting point in concluding and ratifying it and throughout the many years during which it operated.

It is regrettable that the State Department is again trying to distort the truth and shows a clear lack of objectivity in its approach to the ABM Treaty, which is of fundamental significance to the process of limiting and reducing weapons.

Arms Issues Opinion Poll

LD191400 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1337 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Moscow 19 May (TASS) -- In recent days the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate, with the assistance of the Institute of Sociological Research under the USSR Academy of Sciences, carried out a public opinion poll in Moscow on issues of disarmament, said Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy head of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate at a news briefing today. Around 1,000 Muscovites from various walks of life were questioned.

The poll showed that the Soviet people are paying attention to the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons. The majority of those polled -- 57 percent -- believe that a Soviet-U.S. agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe will be reached. Three percent thought the conclusion of such an agreement impossible.

Almost one in five indicated that this agreement would be evidence of a radical turning point in the process of disarmament talks between the USSR and the United States.

The results of the poll, said the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman, have confirmed the generally negative attitude of the Moscow public to the U.S. Administration's Strategic Defense Initiative. Six-seven percent of those questioned stated that they see in SDI a very serious threat to the cause of peace.

Persian Gulf Security Situation

LD191457 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1409 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 19 May (TASS) -- The situation in the Persian Gulf is a crystallization of the harm that is borne by military tension and military actions, stated Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry Information Directorate. Answering questions in the course of a briefing that took place here today, he noted that confirmation of this was the unfortunate incident involving the Soviet tanker Marshal Chuykov and the tragedy that happened to the U.S. naval ship, as a result of which dozens of people died.

All this poses the question as to ending miltary actions and taking rapid energetic and collective steps toward detente in the region and toward adopting energetic measures for a reliable guarantee of shipping rights, stressed the representative of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Soviet position on these issues is unchanged, stressed the Soviet representative. The USSR is in favor of immediate cessation of the war between Iran and Iraq by means of talks taking into account the legitimate interests of both sides. The Soviet Union has put forward the idea of holding multilateral talks among all the states using the waters of the Indian Ocean, with the aim of working out a guarantee of security for maritime communications including the Persian Gulf, and also a gurantee of sovereignty over their resources for the coastal countries.

As for the likelihood of Soviet-U.S. cooperation in this sphere, continued B. Pyadyshev, the first step on the way to this would be to reduce the military activity and presence of the United States in this region and their rejection of support for the policy of those forces that are conducting an aggressive course. Also essential is the genuine commitment of the U.S. Administration to cooperation in the name of strengthening security and business ties among all states of the region.

PRAVDA LOOKS AT USSR RELATIONS WITH PRC, FRANCE, UK

PM201311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 87 Second Edition p 4

["International Review" column by Pavel Demchenko]

[Text] Vigorous and Assertive [subhead]

Anyone following international events could not help noticing how dynamic and vigorous the Soviet land's foreign policy activity has become recently. In fact, whatever area you choose -- interparty, interstate or intergovernmental relations -- this trend is quite apparent everywhere. So our internal restructuring is bearing real fruit in the foreign policy sphere.

One marvels sometimes at the way the duty editors manage to get into our comparatively small paper news about all the important meetings, talks, conversations, visits, and official statements. After all, these days one could not conceive of a newspaper that did not have such reports: Millions of people judge by them what an obstinate struggle the Soviet leaders are having to wage for the implementation of the peace initiatives, the way the truth about our country is spreading across the world, and what friend and foe think about us.

Take the past week, for instance: Like many previous weeks, it has been packed with such events.

M.S. Gorbachev went to the Baykonur space center. At a meeting with working people of the city of Leninsk he talked with typical cogency and candor about the burning problems of domestic and international life currently of interest to people in the USSR and abroad. "The task," he summed up, "is not to miss the opportunity that presents itself as a result of our enterprising policy. It is supported by broad circles in the world. We will act consistently to change international relations for the better."

In Bucharest this week there was a conference of Central Committee secretaries of the socialist countries' communist and workers parties dealing with party organization work matters. USSR Supreme Soviet delegations visited Bulgaria and people's Korea. [paragraph continues]

PRAVDA paid a great deal of attention to these events, which are evidence of the further cohesion and rapprochement of the socialist countries.

I would like to mention one more fact in this connection: The second session of the Soviet-Chinese commission on economnic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation was held in Moscow. In fact, the Chinese delegation was headed by Yao Yilin, member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premier of the PRC State Council. Soviet people have a special interest in their great Far Eastern neighbor -- we are linked by many years of joint struggle and cooperation, the longest joint frontier, and much else. One would like to think that that has been confirmed by the talks, that the dark years in Soviet-Chinese relations are a thing of the past, and our rapidly developing ties in various spheres will continue to strengthen. This is certainly a matter for big politics and it accords with the interests and aspirations of both peoples.

Surmounting Obstacles [subhead]

There was a major event this week in Soviet-French relations, whose development has of late been far from smooth: French Prime Minister J. Chirac visited Moscow. There were important meetings and talks here, which demonstrated that our relations need a considerable fillip for their former friendly character to be fully revived.

As is known, the USSR and France are traditionally linked by vigorous trade, cultural, and scientific exchange and there are many other points of contact in matters of broad international and regional politics. I will mention, for example, the fact that France favors observance of the Soviet-U.S. ABM Treaty in its entirety, is opposed to the spread of the arms race to space, and favors the continuation and development of the Helsinki process in Europe. Here our countries' positions essentially coincide.

But for some time dark clouds have been obscuring the Soviet-French sky. Outbreaks of anti-Sovietism, suspicion, and negativism toward our country have come into blatant conflict with the policy and proposals issuing from Moscow. This is particularly marked in the fundamental issue of ridding Europe of nuclear weapons. The French Government has stated that it intends to back so-called "nuclear deterrence," to improve and increase its nuclear potential, and to produce chemical weapons. Contrary to sane logic, there have been continual noises from Paris giving assurances that in our era nuclear weapons all but "guarantee peace and security in the world" and one must pay homage to them for the fact that there have been no wars in Europe for more than 40 years.

It seems to me that what we have here is not just France's own position, but also an indication of how difficult it is to clear a path for the Soviet peace initiatives currenly enjoying the support of millions all over the world. Here are the facts of recent days. Judging by FRG Chancellor H. Kohl's statement, his government has made a decision on the Soviet proposal on eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles and operational and tactical missiles in Europe. There is still disagreement in Bonn over the elimination of these classes of nuclear armaments.

At the same time Italian Defense Minister R. Gaspari believes that the "prospects for turning Europe into a zone free from nuclear weapons, by implementing a single, double, or triple zero option, as they say these days, are now a reality and we all want them to arrive as soon as possible."

There is fierce antagonism in the United States between the supporters and opponents of space militarization and other military programs. [paragraph continues]

Defense Secretary C. Weinberger has just promulgated a plan prepared by the Pentagon for experiments within the framework of SDI in the next few years. While that was going on, the U.S. House of Representatives, which is discussing the military expenditure bill, voted for an effective freeze on SDI expenditure at this year's level, fixing a sum of $3.1 billion instead of the $5.7 billion the administration asked for. During the debate Representative Barbara Boxer said that the discontinuation of the SDI program would "make it possible to prevent an endless new arms race spiral and the spread of it to space." "Such an arms race," she continued, "would be much more dangerous and deadly than even the current one."

Bold words, how true! They accord with the demands of many people on both sides of the Atlantic not to allow an arms race in space and to stop it on earth. Dynamic, vigorous efforts are needed to achieve advances in this sphere. Certain agreements, given a favorable combination of circumstances and goodwill on the West's part, appear to me to be possible in the foreseeable future. But let us not anticipate events: There are still many difficulties and obstacles in the way.

One Year Early [subhead]

Journalists were predicting the possibility of this event some months ago. Now it has happened. Namely, that a new general election has been called for 11 June in Britain, 1 year before the government's term expires. It was officially announced by Prime Minister M. Thatcher.

Naturally, one wonders why the Conservatives, who have a majority at the moment, went for an early election. To all appearances, it was not a snap decision. The scales were apparently tipped by the results of the municipal elections in England and Wales, the results of which had just been published. To the surprise of many, including themselves, the Conservatives obtained nearly 100 extra seats, although, as the newspaper THE GUARDIAN wrote, even small losses had been regarded as "permissible." According to observers, the mood of the electorate was influenced by the fact that as a result of a number of temporary factors the country's national economic indicators had improved and business had revived. Moreover, representatives of business circles close to the prime minister have grave fears that the favorable situation might not last long and therefore it is necessary to make haste and try to consolidate now for the next 5 years.

The Conservatives were also motivated by dissension in the ranks of the main opposition force, the Labor Party, although its chances, like those of the alliance between the Social Democrats and Liberals, should not be underestimated. Especially as there are many vulnerable spots in the Conservatives' social program.

It must not be forgotten, for example, that under the present government unemployment has reached a record level (more than 3 million), the educational reform has attracted much criticism, and the situation in Ulster has deteriorated. The preelection debate is bound to touch on the defense policy of the Tories, who are continuing to champion the nuclear "deterrent force," whereas Labor has the opposite view.

But now the government, although not without reservations, has made it known that in principle it regards the "double zero option" as acceptable, that is, the simultaneous elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe in accordance with the Soviet proposal. The press called the London announcement sensational, asserting that it had been made with the mood of the electorate in mind. In fact, it seems to me that it is a step in the right direction from the viewpoint of easing tension in Europe.

For all that, London's FINANCIAL TIMES believes that the Conservative leadership cannot see he forthcoming election as a "lottery they cannot lose." Substantial sections of the British electorate are still obviously undecided and any unexpected factor in the election campaign could change the political balance in the country.

The Echo of Algiers [subhead]

The Israeli Armed Forces have made two major air raids in recent days on Palestinian refugee camps near the Lebanese city of Sidon. There has been almost daily shelling of South Lebanese villges, adding new names of dead and wounded to the list of Israeli tyranny. It was Tel Aviv's response to the Algiers session of the Palestine National Council (parliament), which concluded at the end of last month.

As is known, the session was marked by the unification in the ranks of the PLO of the main Palestinian organizations which had only recently been operating separately. This turn of events caused a sharp reaction in Israeli ruling circles. Prime Minister I. Shamir angrily called the Algerian meeting an "assembly of murderers."

But Israeli society is far from united on, among other things, the question of the fate of the Palestinians. The unremitting pressure from Palestinians and neighboring Arab countries and the weariness of people living under permanent streess are having an effect. Although none of the parties in the government coalition recognizes the PLO or wants to have anything to do with it, not all Israelis share such an inflexible stance. Even in the ruling circles there are now people who believe there is no escaping the Palestinian problem, so one must at least listen to the opposite side.

The other day, for example, there appeared a sensational report to the effect that Minister Without Portfolio E. Weizman had suggested to Y. 'Arafat, through a journalist, a discussion of the idea of setting up a Palestinian state in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip which would constitute a confederation with Israel. The PLO leaders responded with a counterproposal -- setting up a democratic state on the entire territory of Palestine, including Israel. "The political structure of this state," he explained, "would consist of fully democratic institutions set up o the basis of free elections." These words promopted another display of irritation by Shamir. "We will conquer all our enemies!" he explained in a fit of pique. "Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel forever."

Obviously, this kind of inflexibility cannot lead the Near East situation out of the blind alley of violence. Basically, this path leads nowhere. The futility of this course is particularly obvious against the background of the gradual materialization of the USSR's idea of convening an international conference on the Near East to be attended by all interested sides. A report by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, circulated this week, notes that during his consultations none of the members of the Security Council opposed such a conference. Although differences of opinion over the form of the conference remain, there are signs of great flexibility in the sides' approaches to this idea, which should be encouraged in every way, the report says.

The nature of these differences can be judged from materials that have appeared in the press. AFP reported: U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz has sent the Israeli Government a letter saying that the United States will not allow the PLO to participate in the conference. But could anything be decided without it? THE NEW YORK TIMES noted for its part that the conference would serve only as a "bridge to direct talks between Jordan and Israel..."

In short, they are again dragging out the old plan for establishing a kind of Israeli-Jordanian condominium on the occupied Palestinian lands. They have spent many years on this plan, trying to push it through behind the Palestinian Arabs' backs. This is what is behind all the efforts to ignore the PLO.

The purpose of the conference we have proposed is quite different. It would not be a "bridge" or an "umbrella" for behind-the-scenes negotiations or deals giving an advantage to some and hurting others. Having come together, everyone, the actual interested parties, could unravel the highly complex Near East knot. Not only the Palestinian problem, but the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the territories occupied in 1967, including, of course, Syria's Golan Heights, and the guarantee of security for all peoples and states in the region, both Arabs and Israelis. The Near East crisis is of an international nature and it can only be settled through collective efforts, taking into account the interests of all the sides involved in the conflict. Otherwise much more blood will be shed there.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVES SEMINAR OPENS IN MOSCOW

LD181126 Moscow TASS in English 1157 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 18 TASS -- An international seminar on the role of governments in developing the cooperative movement opened here today.

Sponsored by the U.N. Center for Social Developments and Humanitarian Affairs and the Central Council of Consumer Cooperatives of the USSR, it is being attended by high-ranking officials from the ministries of cooperatives and the leaders of cooperative movements of 24 Asian, African, Middle Eastern and Latin American countries and by representatives of the United Nations, the International Labor Organization, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, and the International Cooperative Alliance.

TEST OF PERSHING-2 IN ATLANTIC REPORTED

LD210859 Moscow TASS in English 0846 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] New York May 21 TASS -- The United States has made the test launching of a Pershing-2 missile with a training warhead. It was launched Wednesday night towards the target in the Atlantic Ocean. The launcher was served by 100 servicemen of an American Army unit stationed at the U.S. military base in Schwaebisch-Gmuend (FRG).

A total of 108 such missiles are deployed in the FRG. The U.S. made the first training Pershing-2 launching in December 1985. The United States made 45 Pershing-2 test launchings, 11 of them in the current year, according to the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

COMMENTATOR PREDICTS CIA ACTIVITIES UNDER WEBSTER

LD202328 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 20 May 87

[Andrey Ptashnikov commentary from the "International Diary" program, presented by Boris Andrionov]

[Text] [Andrionov] The U.S. Senate has confirmed the appointment of William Webster, the current FBI director, to the post of director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. That post has been vacant since February this year, when William Casey resigned due to his state of health. He headed the U.S. spy agency from the outset of the Reagan administration. I invite my colleague Andrey Ptashnikov to comment on this:

[Ptashnikov] First a few words about Webster himself. He is 63 years old. He was appointed director of the FBI 9 years ago by President Carter. In the ensuing period he considerably stepped up the organization's activities, broadened its functions -- I will discuss them in more detail a little latter -- and equipped the FBI with the most modern technical means. That department's budget almost doubled, and now it is approaching $1.5 billion. It must be acknowledged that in those years Webster managed to keep his reputation untarnished, and that is now rare in U.S. political circles.

His authority in official Washington has strengthened considerably, and that is one of the main reasons his candidature for the post of CIA director -- incidentally, the 14th one -- brought virtually no objections from the senators. In the voting, 94 votes were cast for him, and only 1 against. I should recall that previously the legislators had voted on another candidate: the staff intelligence officer Robert Gates, deputy CIA director, who turned out to be involved in the Iran-contra scandal, like his former boss. Webster's noninvolvement in that scandal -- in any case, for now there are no facts on that score -- played a fairly important part, indeed, in his new appointment. But not just that, and here I would like to return to Webster's activities as boss of the FBI, to the functions that organization fulfilled under him, and about which I promised to talk earlier.

Above all, under Webster, the FBI considerably extended the scale of its operations involving surveillance, persecution of dissidents, and those Americans who, in its view, are politically unreliable. At present dossiers on more than 80 million U.S. citizens are maintained at FBI headquarters -- that is, on every third American.

The names of many political and public figures around the country are included on the lists of people who are unreliable: famous scientists, writers, and journalists, whose views at some time or other differed from the positions of the U.S. Government.

But the FBI directed its main efforts toward the surveillance of participants in antiwar and trade union, student and women's organizations, and the U.S. civil rights and liberties movements. It was under Webster that secret recordings of telephone conversations, and the illegal installation of all kinds of eavesdropping and surveillance equipment became most widespread.

Webster considerably extended the counterintelligence activities of the FBI, chiefly against the USSR and the other socialist countries. Under his leadership, a whole series of cases was concocted for the purpose of whipping up a spymania campaign to educate Americans even more in the spirit of hatred and mistrust, above all toward our country. These cases were particularly at the basis of many unlawful and groundless decisions adopted by the U.S. Administration regarding officials at various Soviet establishment located in the United States.

That, briefly, is the service record of the FBI director, who is now heading the CIA. As is evident, he fully suits both the head of the White House, who proposed his candidacy, and the members of the top legislative body of the United States, who promptly confirmed it.

What can one expect from the new CIA boss? I shall probably not be mistaken if I say a further stepping up of subversive and espionage activity by that organization against other countries -- only with more subtle methods than those of his predecessors.

SOVIET-U.S. YOUTH SEMINAR ENDS IN MOSCOW

LD202148 Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Leningrad May 20 TASS -- A Soviet-U.S. seminar came to a close in Leningrad today. Mark Vecchio, the leader of a delegation of the American International Leaders Centre, is of the opinion that the seminar has helped the delegation members to get rid of many stereotypes in the evaluation of Soviet young people and of the developments in the Soviet Union.

The guests are visiting here at the invitation of the Committee of the Youth Organisations of the USSR. The American centre has been maintaining close contacts with the Soviet youth organisations committee since 1985. Next seminar is to be held in the United States in July this year.

RSFSR THEATER GROUP VISITS U.S. FOR TALKS

LD171051 Moscow TASS in English 1006 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS -- The establishment of contacts between professionals is the purpose of a trip to the United States of a group of Soviet theatre workers. A Soviet delegation led by the actor Mikhail Ulyanov, chairman of the Board of the Union of Theatre Workers of the Russian Federation, left for New York today. For two weeks Soviet actors, stage managers and playwrights will familiarize themselves with works of their American colleagues. Bilateral meetings and conversation will be held whose participants will discuss ways of the development of modern art.

KYODO DETAILS 'SPY' SCANDAL, SOVIET DENIALS

OW200437 Tokyo KYODO in English 0431 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Tokyo, May 20 KYODO -- One of the four Japanese suspects who were arrested Tuesday for allegedly passing U.S. secret military aircraft information to the Soviet Union, had received more than 100 million yen from the Soviet side, Tokyo police said Wednesday.

The "spy" reward was given to Hiromi Date, 62, an adviser at the China technical center in Tokyo over a period of several years, according to police.

He was arrested when he attempted to pass the documents to V.B. Aksenov, 35, an official at the Soviet trade representative office in Tokyo, at Inokashira park in the western suburbs of Tokyo Tuesday evening.

Aksenov refused police questioning and hurriedly left Narita airport aboard an Aeroflot flight with his family Wednesday morning, police said.

Police believe Aksenov is a KGB agent.

In the espionage case, police also arrested Masateru Tachibana, 59, a military affairs expert, Hiroshi Osumi, 65, an employee in the technical library at the U.S. Yokota Air Base in Fussa on the outskirts of Tokyo, and Sadao Goto, 60, an executive of Sanko Co., a trading firm.

The documents were allegedly stolen by Osumi from the U.S. Yokota Air Base, police said.

The secret documents were technical orders, including those about the sophisticated F-16 Falcon fighter aircraft, police said.

Tokyo police also said they would investigate an alleged sale by Goto of related U.S. classified documents to a Chinese source.

Date frequently contacted A.I. Sokolov, 46, first secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo, police said.

The diplomat, however, had already left here for home in mid-April for a routine holiday leave, according to police. Police suspect Sokolov of being a Soviet espionage agent.

Police searched the houses of the arrested men and confiscated the stolen technical orders on the F-16 fighter, transports and other U.S. military aircraft, radio receivers, tapes with Morse code signals recorded and other items.

The confiscated items allegedly revealed that Date had regularly received short-wave secret instructions from the Soviet homeland every Sunday night, according to police. Therefore, police suspect Date was a spy for the Soviets.

The call signs for the Soviet instructions were changed every month, police said.

Investigators said Osumi stole the documents from the U.S. air base in March and sold them to Tachibana.

Tachibana made copies from the documents and sold them to Date and Goto, they said.

Boris V. Krasulin, a first secretary of the Soviet Embassy to Tokyo, told reporters Wednesday afternoon Aksenov was never involved in the alleged spy case.

He said the case is a anti-Soviet campaign fabricated by the police.

The first secretary said the Japaneese Government is responsible for all negative effects stemming from the campaign.

The Soviet diplomat also said the United States might be involved in the case because it diverts attention from the present U.S.-Japan trade friction.

Meanwhile, he said Aksenov, who allegedly received the technical documents including some detailing a sophisticated F-16 Falcon fighter aircraft from the Japanese, returned home Wednesday morning because he was unable to get protection from Japanese authorities.

JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS PAY OFFICIAL VISIT

LD171552 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS -- A delegation of the Japanese Parliamentary Association for Japan-Soviet friendship led by the association's chairman, Yoshio Sakurauchi, arrived in Moscow today. It was invited to visit the U.S.S.R. by the Soviet Parliamentary group.

DPRK'S KIM IL-SONG ARRIVES IN PRC 21 MAY

LD210553 Moscow TASS in English 0545 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Beijing May 21 TASS -- Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, arrived here today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, and Li Xiannian, chairman of People's Republic of China.

The leaders of the two countries will discuss questions of developing bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest, including the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

DOBRYNIN ARRIVES IN INDIA FOR 'WORKING' VISIT

LD201918 Moscow TASS in English 1847 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] New Dehli May 20 TASS -- Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, arrived here today for a friendly working visit at the invitation of the Indian Government and the leadership of the Indian National Congress (I).

Speaking before journalists at the airport, he said: "I am very glad to visit again this great and beautiful country. Relations between the USSR and India are excellent. As for our visit, it is of a working character. We shall meet and have conversations with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and other Indian leaders. During these meetings we shall discuss topical problems of the international situation which is rather complicated today, as well as questions connected with a further development of bilateral relations, in the spirit of Soviet-Indian agreements reached on the summit level during the visit to your country last November of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee."

DRA REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ISSUES AMNESTY DECREE

LD202143 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Kabul May 20 TASS -- The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan today passed a decree on amnesty and the restoration of rights of persons who were earlier convicted on charges of undermining the country's security, members of the counterrevolutionary groups, who laid their arms down and factory and office workers who left places of work after the victory of the April Revolution.

The decree of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council is a fresh confirmation of the national reconciliation course, proclaimed by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the republic's government.

DRA LEADER CITED ON U.S. 'UNDECLARED WAR'

LD202043 Moscow TASS in English 1953 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Kabul May 20 TASS -- The course on national reconciliation, proclaimed by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Afghan Government, is widely supported by the working people of the republic, said Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. He met today with members of the commission on national reconciliation in Najrab [placename as received] District, Kapisa Province.

The enemies of the Afghan people, the general secretary said, American imperialism in the first place, continue an undeclared war against Afghanistan. But Afghan people, are fully determined to uphold their righteous course and to achieve peace and tranquility in their country.

REPORTAGE ON CPV'S NGUYEN VAN LINH'S MOSCOW VISIT

Arrival Ceremony

OW181245 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, arrived in Moscow on 18 May for an official friendship visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Today's Soviet central newspapers published Comrade Nguyen Van Linh's biography, stressing that the Soviet Union regards him as a stalwart fighter for Vietnam's national independence and freedom and an experienced party and national leader of high prestige. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh has paid many visits to the Soviet Union. He has actively contributed to developing and consolidating Soviet-Vietnamese fraternal friendship.

As stressed by the Soviet press, all the Soviet communists and people have enthusiastically welcomed Comrade Nguyen Van Linh's official friendship visit to the Soviet Union and are confident this visit will be an important new stimulus to the broad and profound development of the overall cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam, for the benefits of the two peoples and for the sake of peace and socialism.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh was met at the Moscow airport by Comrade Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom; and Comrade Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He was presented with a bouquet by young children. He was also met by Comrade Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Comrade Gusev, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers; Comrade Ministers Klyuyev and Chernomyrdin; and other officials. Also present to greet him were the cadres of the Vietnamese Embassy and Vietnamese students who are attending various colleges in Moscow. Also present were Cambodian Ambassador to the Soviet Union Hor Nam Hong and Lao charge d'affaires ad interim to the Soviet Union (Semchan Sachachen).

Soviet and Vietnamese flags were fluttering at the airport. An honor guard from the Soviet Army, Air Force, and Navy stood erect while a military band played the SRV and USSR national anthems. Comrades Ligachev and Nguyen Van Linh reviewed the honor guard, whose mighty march marked the end of the greeting ceremony.

A motorcade, accompanied by a motorcyclists' guard of honor, left the airport for the Kremlin. Soviet and Vietnamese national flags and slogans welcoming the distinguished Vietnamese guest were seen along the streets the motorcade passed.

A solemn welcoming ceremony was held in the St. George's Hall at the Great Kremlin Palace. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh was warmly greeted by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Talks With Gorbachev

PM201257 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 May 87 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "In an Atmosphere of Friendship and Complete Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] Moscow -- Talks between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee

Nguyen Van Linh, on an official friendly visit in the Soviet Union, opened in the Kremlin 18 May.

Representing the USSR were Nikolay Ryzhkov, Yegor Ligachev, Eduard Shevardnadze, Nikolay Talyzin, Vladimir Kamentsev and other officials. The Vietnamese delegates included member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Co Thach, and other Vietnamese comrades.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh expressed profound satisfaction with dynamic development of relations between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Vietnam, between the Soviet Union and Vietnam. These relations are based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, and are cemented by the treaty of friendship and cooperation. There was an exchange of information on the course of socialist construction in the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the sixth congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the subsequent plenums of the Central Committees of both parties.

Concerning reorganization, Mikhail Gorbachev noted that it spreads wider, goes deeper, and involves every area of life, all segments of Soviet society. The atmosphere of greater openness, principledness, criticism and self-criticism has a positive effect on the solution of the national economic tasks, on the attitudes of people. It is planned to resolve major tasks in society, such as the increase of the output of consumer goods, the improvement of the system of health services, education, and the stepping up of the pace of housing and cultural construction. It was emphasized that the implementation of the tasks for the reorganization, for the speeding up of the social and economic development and democratization requires vast organizing work of the party. "What is important is not only to set the tasks correctly but also to achieve their implementation in which, it must be openly admitted, we were sometimes lacking."

Nguyen Van Linh said that the Communist Party of Vietnam is also setting its sights on renewal and restructuring, which are being implemented on the basis of a correct analysis of the real state of affairs in the country. The party's decisions enable the country to overcome its current difficulties, to consolidate Vietnam's ties with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community, to contribute to the cause of peace in the Asia-Pacific region and the whole world. "We realize how difficult it will be to implement these tasks but we are confident of success since the party's course is met with complete support of the people."

Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet leadership has understanding and complete support for the efforts of the Vietnamese communists, of the working people of fraternal Vietnam in the solution of vast and complex social and economic tasks. "Though our countries are at different levels of developments, at different stages, we are resolving similar tasks -- implementing transformation, reorganization. Their essence is to reveal socialism's potential in full measure, to ensure a better life for the peoples."

When the key problems of the world development were discussed, the sides confirmed the resolve of both parties and countries to continue strengthening cooperation with other socialist states, with all progressive and peaceful forces in the effort to consolidate peace and security of peoples, to rid humanity of the threat of nuclear war, to end the arms race on earth and prevent the militarization of space.

Much attention was paid to the discussion of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region. Mikhail Gorbachev noted that a comprehensive program of the consolidation of peace and security, development of relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation in that vast region, based on a new philosophical and political vision of the problems of war and peace, on admitting and grasping the realities existing in the Asia-Pacific region had been advanced in Vladivostok.

Nguyen Van Linh spoke highly of the Leninist peaceful foreign policy of the CPSU and proclaimed the readiness of socialist Vietnam to continue close interaction with the USSR in the struggle for peace, against the menace of nuclear war, and for the creation of an all-embracing system of international security, including Asia. Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok set a good beginning to the present positive change of the political climate in the Asia-Pacific region.

The great importance of the strengthening of the fraternal union of the peoples of the three countries of Indochina, which is an important factor of the defense of their revolutionary gains, was noted.

The Soviet side proclaimed invariable support for the enterprising efforts made by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam jointly with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Kampuchea to improve the political climate in Southeast Asia, to step up a constructive dialogue with the ASEAN countries.

There was also an exchange of opinions on the Cambodian problem. It was emphasized that it can and must be resolved in the interests of the Cambodian people, taking into account the realities that have formed in the region, on the basis of the policy of national reconciliation.

The leaders of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Vietnam confirmed the consistent course of the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the normalization and improvement of relations with the People's Republic of China.

The talks were held in the atmosphere of friendship and complete mutual understanding. A joint Soviet-Vietnamese statement will be adopted on the results of the official friendly visit to the USSR by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Van Linh.

Moscow Radio Cites 'Frankness'

LD191455 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, met Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, who is in the Soviet Union on an official friendly visit. There was a discussion on questions of Soviet-Vietnamese economic cooperation.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev recounted the measures being adopted in the course of restructuring to correctly combine the role of the center and the plan with independence and responsibility at a local level. Speaking about problems in the agro-industrial complex, he noted that here it is important to deepen the interests of rural workers in the land and in achieving high results. Comrade Gorbachev expressed support for the course laid down by the Sixth CPV Congress to solve, as matters of priority, three economic programs: food, production of consumer goods, and the development of the country's export potential.

Nguyen Van Linh spoke about the situation of the economy in Vietnam. For a number of objective reasons and several negative subjective factors the situation is complex and difficult. The party is taking measures to get the country out of these difficulties. These are being met with understanding and approval by the people. People acknowledge that they must work better and mobilize all internal forces. At the same time the support and help of the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries of will, as before, be of great significance in dealing with economic tasks. It was noted that dealing with the social and economic tasks facing the Soviet Union and Vietnam requires a restructuring of economic cooperation and an increase in its efficiency.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of frankness [otkrovennosti], mutual understanding, and cordiality, which is typical of relations between the CPSU and the CPV, and between the USSR and the SRV.

Leaders Attend Dinner

LD191640 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1555 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] In the Great Kremlin Palace today, the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the USSR Government gave a dinner in honor of Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee. He is in the USSR on an official, friendly visit.

The Vietnamese comrades accompanying Nguyen Van Linh on his trip attended the dinner with him.

Present on the Soviet side were Comrades M.S. Gorbachev, V.I. Vorotnikov, A.A. Gromyko, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, E.A. Shevardnadze, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, B.N. Yeltsin, N.N. Slyunkov, N.V. Talyzin, A.P. Biryukova, A.F. Dobrynin, A.I. Lukyanov, V.A. Medvedev, V.P. Nikonov, G.P. Razumovskiy, I.V. Kapitonov, deputy chairmen of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers, chairmen of the USSR State Committees, and other officials.

M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Nguyen Van Linh exchanged speeches. They were heard with attention and received with applause.

The dinner passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Gorbachev Addresses Dinner

PM201111 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report on speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at a Kremlin dinner for Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam under the general headline: "CPSU-Communist Party of Vietnam: Cooperation in all Areas"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Nguyen Van Linh,

Esteemed Comrades,

We are sincerely glad to greet the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnamese friends accompanying him. The negotiations and talks we already had give every reason to say that your visit to the Soviet Union will constitute a further and important contribution to developing the inviolable fraternal relations between our parties, countries and peoples.

Soviet-Vietnamese friendship is deeply rooted and has fine traditions. In 1923, a young Vietnamese revolutionary, Ho Chi Minh, stepped on Moscow soil for the first time. Awakened by the October Revolution, the Orient was looking to our country and Vladimir Lenin. The man who later founded the Communist Party of Indochina and then socialist Vietnam found in Lenin's teachings the ideological weapon that helped the Vietnamese people break the chains of colonial slavery and embark on a socialist path.

Today is the anniversary of Ho Chi Minh's birth and I would like to tell you that the name of that remarkable Communist, fiery patriot and staunch internationalist is held here, in the Soviet Union, in the highest esteem.

Vietnam's road to freedom was long and difficult. Recalling the trials of our Vietnamese comrades, we again feel the deepest admiration again for their steadfastness and heroism.

This age is a stern age. Its history knows quite a few tragic events involving violence and bloodletting. But even against this background, the story of the Vietnamese people stands out for its drama.

For nearly 3 decades after the proclamation of their republic, they had to uphold their right to life and an independent existence in fierce battles against consecutive imperialist conquerors. The Vietnamese land was burned with napalm, poisoned with chemical toxins and showered with more explosives than used in the whole of World War II. But Vietnam held out and won.

The Soviet Communists and Soviet people can say with a clear conscience that they have always stood by the Vietnamese and done everything possible to help their rightful struggle. This was the case during the years of the war and in the following period of economic rehabilitation. [paragraph continues]

It will also remain the case in the future.

If we are to define the first and paramount result of the talks, it is the clearly expressed determination by both sides to continue strengthening the relationship of friendship and solidarity between our peoples and to carry forward and deepen mutually advantageous Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation in every field.

We told the Vietnamese friends about the way the reorganization drive inspired by the decisions of the 27th party congress and the Central Committee January Plenum is unfolding in our country, about the initial accomplishments on this revolutionary path and about the remaining formidable difficulties encountered there. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, shared with us the concerns of the Vietnamese Communists and plans for realizing the decisions of the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The Soviet Communists, the Soviet people as a whole, understand and approve the Vietnamese friends' desire to steer their country out of the economic difficulties and make decisive headway in fulfilling the food and other vital socioeconomic programs. We are convinced the projected measures will help cope with the problems facing Vietnam and quicken the pace. We wish you success in these undertakings from the bottom of our hearts.

It is known that our two countries are at different levels of development. Even so, the Soviet and Vietnamese Communists today have the same slogans -- renewal and restructuring. This is only understandable as, whatever its development level, a socialist state has only one effective way how it can expedite its progress: by decisively abandoning outdated work methods, bringing popular initiative and enterprise into play fully, and bringing out the potentialities of socialism.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and I thoroughly discussed the entire set of issues related to Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation. It has long acquired an all-round nature and impressive scale. But the weaker aspects of economic bonds and their failure to correspond to the new situation have also begun to show. We share the opinion that it is essential to make the mechanisms and forms of cooperation more adequately meet current requirements and increase the efficiency of this cooperation significantly.

The agreements signed today on specific areas of our cooperation will make it possible to use the possibilities of the socialist division of labor to fuller advantage. We expect much from greater cooperation and specialization in production, from cooperation based on supply of initial products and conducted on a buy-back basis, as well as the joint enterprises in industry and agriculture.

More help will be given to Vietnam with training and retraining personnel. Thousands of Vietnamese young men and women are mastering trades at Soviet factories. We believe that when they return home, they will not only join the advanced detachment of the builders of a new society but will also carry on the traditions of Soviet-Vietnamese brotherhood.

Comrades,

At present the fulfillment of national tasks depends, to a large extent, on the international situation. Quite understandably, an important place in our talks was given to discussing the situation in Southeast Asia which is of much significance to both the Vietnamese friends and the Soviet Union as a Eurasian power.

We hail the increasingly strong fraternal alliance of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and think highly of their efforts to improve the political climate in the region and turn it into a zone of peace, stability and good-neighborly cooperation.

The Cambodian people have, over recent years with the internationalist assistance of Vietnam, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries literally restored their homeland from ashes. The ancient land of Angkor, which was swept by a devastating tornado, is slowly but steadily recovering from the horrors of Pol Pot's genocide. But the normal development of the at country is still being hindered by continued military activities and interference by outside forces.

We share with our Vietnamese comrades the opinion of the leadership of the People's Republic of Kampuchea that the Cambodian problem calls for a political solution. It can only be solved proceeding from the highest interests of the Cambodian people and their legitimate right to shape their destiny themselves, on the basis of the unification of all their national patriotic forces.

Comrades, the Soviet Union does not divide the principles of international policy into European and Asian ones, and proceeds from the premise that in the present, interdependent world, the peoples of all continents share common concerns and hopes. We are for peace and good-neighborliness, trust and mutual understanding, and mutually beneficial exchanges of technology, goods, and cultural values prevailing in the relations between states of the Asia-Pacific region, which is acquiring an ever greater significance in international life. Herein lies the gist of our concept set forth in Vladivostok.

We are now completing work to elaborate the program of development of the Soviet Far East whose aim is to create there a highly-effective national economic complex incorporated into the system not only of the national, but also of the international division of labor. The Soviet Union is interested in broad trade and economic exchanges both with socialist countries and such partners as Japan, Australia, Indonesia, Thailand and other Asian and Pacific nations.

In realistically evaluating the current situation, it is apt to mention both the broad interest in the ideas expressed in Vladivostok and the difficulties that the progress of our initiatives is encountering.

But not all are obviously ready for a joint quest for tackling the issues affecting the interests of countries of the region. But our times command joint work to create an Asian-Pacific security system. Of key significance in this respect is the nuclear problem. We cannot help being concerned about the fact that work is continuing in some Asian countries to create nuclear weapons. The ambition to join the nuclear club, while intensive talks are under way to get rid of such weapons, is an obvious recurrence of obsolete political thinking.

In this regard, I would like to mention also nuclear disarmament in Asia. We are now pursuing an active policy of ridding Europe of nuclear weapons. Yet we are not doing so to transfer the nuclear danger to other areas of the world. Our aim is, by starting with Europe, where the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons are stockpiled, to lead things to freeing all continents from nuclear weapons by the year 2000 in accordance with the program announced by us on 15 January 1986, and create on that basis an all-embracing international peace and security system.

We are asked why the Soviet Union agreed in Reykjavik to preserve 100 warheads on Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles on each side. I will answer. This is a certain compromise. The U.S. Administration seeks to leave in Asia the nuclear weapons deployed there against the Soviet Union, and this makes us seek a reply, to keep a balance of forces there. For the United States has massed a powerful nuclear force in the Asia-Pacific region and is replenishing the nuclear arsenals on board its ships and at military bases in foreign territories.

At the same time we have more than once declared our preparedness to resolve the problem of medium-range missiles on a global basis. There would be no obstacles to such a settlement, if the U.S. agreed to eliminate its nuclear weapons in Japan, South Korea and the Philippines, and also to withdraw its aircraft carrier flotilla beyond agreed lines. In so doing, of course, the U.S. would not have medium-range missiles on its territory.

We propose that advance be started now on the routes leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons in Asia. An important step in that direction would be, for example, the creation of nuclear-free zones. The Soviet Union is known to have signed appropriate protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga on the creation of such a zone in the South Pacific. We support the proposals of other countries on the creation of zones free from nuclear weapons in Southeast Asia and the Korean Peninsula. An international conference concerning the Indian Ocean, at which it would be possible to examine and decide the question of declaring that area a zone of peace, would also serve the aims of nuclear disarmament.

In Asia, as in Europe, our methods, our approach to nuclear disarmament are the same. We propose this process be implemented under stringent international control consisting of three components: national means, international verification methods, and on-site inspection.

On the whole this is our perception of untying the Asian nuclear knot. By pursuing this course, the states of that area would really be able to start building a regional security system. The efforts in that direction by the countries of the two continents -- Europe and Asia -- could blend together into a single Eurasian process that would give a powerful impetus to the creation of an all-embracing international security system.

We have recently had quite a number of meetings with the leaders of the states of the region, which made it possible to understand each other's stand better.

The Soviet Union's relations with India have assumed a unique character. The Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World, signed by the two countries in November 1986, expresses, as we are convinced, the interests of the whole world community, is based on common human values.

The recent tour of Asian-Pacific countries by Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze has been useful in this respect. We highly appreciate the constructive approach of the DPRK and Mongolia to the solution of international problems and cooperation with them.

Progress towards improvement is noticeable in Soviet-Chinese relations. Along with the development of trade, economic and cultural ties, our views have become closer on a number of topical international issues, though, disputable issues remain. We are for full normalization of relations with the PRC. This would accord with the interests of both peoples, the interests of peace and socialism.

It can be confidently said that quite a good groundwork has already been laid by the efforts to create a new political climate in the region, to create an Asia-Pacific security system. We understand that the resolution of that topical problem necessitates coordinated efforts by all states of the region, hence any positive initiative on that score will find a response from the Soviet Union.

Comrades, allow me in conclusion to wish the Communists and all the working people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam success in the great and noble cause of turning their homeland into the prosperous socialist state Ho Chi Minh dreamed of seeing.

We are confident that the industrious Vietnamese people guided by their combat vanguard will implement these tasks and further strengthen their homeland's prestige in Southeast Asia and all over the world, will contribute towards strengthening the position of socialism.

We wish health and success to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and other Vietnamese comrades.

Long live the indestructible Soviet-Vietnamese friendship!

YELTSIN RECEIVES HANOI PARTY DELEGATION

PM191459 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversation"]

[Text] On 16 May B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom, received a delegation from the Hanoi Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] City Committee headed by Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the CPV Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Hanoi CPV City Committee, which is in Moscow at the invitation of Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

During the conversation, which took place in a friendly, cordial atmosphere, the visitors were told about the work of Moscow CPSU Gorkom and the city's party organizations in carrying out the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum. The delegation members talked about the activity of Communists in the SRV capital in implementing the decisions of the Sixth CPV Congress. It was noted at the meeting that friendship between the two capitals and city party organizations is strengthening and developing. There is every opportunity for raising this work to a qualitatively new level.

CEAUCESCU RECEIVES COOPERATION DELEGATION HEAD

PM201531 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 May 87 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Protocol Signed"]

[Text] Bucharest, 19 May -- A meeting of the chairmen of the Soviet and Romanian sections of the Soviet-Romanian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held in Bucharest 18-19 May this year.

The Soviet delegation was headed by A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Romanian delegation by D. Ancuta, deputy prime minister of the Romanian Government.

The meeting examined a plan of measures to realize the Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and Romania Through the Year 2000, as well as questions connected with broadening and deepening economic relations in light of the top-level accords to develop specialization and collaboration in science, technology, and production and new forms of mutual ties and to increase mutual commodity turnover in the current 5-year plan on this basis. A protocol was signed on the results of the work done.

A.K. Antonov was received by N. Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP and president of Romania, and also had a meeting with C. Dascalescu, prime minister of the Romanian Government.

CSSR'S FOJTIK RECEIVES TASS DIRECTOR LOSEV

LD210119 Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Prague May 20 TASS -- Alternate member of the Presidium and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Jan Fojtik received today TASS Director General Sergey Losev, who is staying here in connection with a session of the European alliance of press agencies.

During the conversation they exchanged opinions on the mass media role in the restructuring drive under way in the USSR and Czechoslovakia, and on questions of extending cooperation between CTK and TASS.

SOKOLOV TOURS HUNGARIAN AIR FORCE UNIT

LD201632 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Today Comrade Marshal of the Soviet Union Sokolov, USSR defense minister, who is on an official friendly visit to Hungary, visited an Air Force unit of the Hungarian People's Army. The Air Force pilots demonstrated a high level of military and specialized training. The USSR defense minister visited a museum exhibition devoted to the unit's history.

Next, Comrade Sokolov visited the city of Hungarian engineers, Gyoer. Warm meetings took place with party leaders at the MSZMP county committee and with the labor collective of one of the country's leading enterprises, Raba wagon and machine manufacturing works. Lakatos, first secretary of the MSZMP Gyoer-Sopron County Committee, described the economic and political development of the county, the implementation of the decisions of the 13th party congress by its working people, and the developing contacts between enterprises of the county and their Soviet partners.

PRAVDA CITES PCF ON GORBACHEV-MARCHAIS TALKS

PM171823 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Statement by the French Communist Party Politburo"]

[Text] Paris, 13 May -- A statement by the French Communist Party [PCF] Politburo published here today assessed the 4 May Moscow meeting between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and PCF Secretary General G. Marchais and described relations between the two parties.

The warm atmosphere at the meeting and its content testify to the high level of relations between the two parties, the document says. The PCF Politburo, the statement emphasizes, reaffirms French Communists' support for the profound transformations in the Soviet Union launched by the CPSU.

The PCF and the CPSU, the statement notes, asserted their united approach to the most important problems facing mankind -- disarmament, development, and the establishment of a new international economic order. The meeting also demonstrated that there is a shared will for the fullest mobilization of efforts by the broadest forces in the world to solve these problems. The meeting also expressed shared concern at the present state of Soviet-French relations and noted the need to take measures for the fullest possible use of existing opportunities to develop all-around cooperation in the interests of both countries, peace, and international security.

The meeting between G. Marchais and M.S. Gorbachev, the Politburo statement emphasizes in conclusion, offers broad opportunities for the development of cooperation between the PCF and the CPSU.

MARCHAIS ADDRESSES FRENCH COMMUNISTS IN DIJON

LD180620 Moscow TASS in English 0608 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Paris May 18 TASS -- Addressing a meeting of communist party activists in Dijon yesterday, Georges Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party, said that the French communists were for complete liquidation of nuclear weapons and, therefore, they believed that the proposals by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, were a historic chance for mankind. "The Soviet initiatives," he pointed out, "are aimed at destroying all nuclear and chemical weapons by the year 2000 and at cutting conventional weapons."

"The French communists are real advocates of national independence and effective defence of our country," the leader of the French Communist Party went on to say. However, in his words, the present French military policy is a policy of sky-rocketing acceleration of the nuclear arms race and blends well with the course for establishing a supranational West European army spearheaded at the socialist countries.

Speaking of the situation in France, the French Communist Party leader said that the crisis experienced by the country was a crisis of the capitalist system. The political course, power and the very society need to be changed to get out of the crisis, noted G. Marchais. Heavily censuring the policy of "stiff economy," he pointed out that the right-wing forces and the socialists turned to be incapable of translating into life a new policy the country needs. Under these conditions the communists propose a drive for establishing a socialist society in France, said the FCP [French Communist Party] general secretary.

All victims of the present policy can get convinced that the FCP has been always with them and has always protected them. In conclusion he called for strengthening the communist party, expanding its ranks and spreading its ideas among the masses.

ARIANE AFFAIR SEEN AS ANTI-SOVIET PROVOCATION

PM181555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Bolshakov "Rejoinder": "Was There a Crime At All?"]

[Text] Paris, 15 May -- The French press is in disarray. It has suddenly had to "call off" the many-weeks-long campaign in the so-called "case" of the theft of secrets involving the French Ariane rocket. It is common knowledge that this "case" has resulted in the imprisonment of a Soviet citizen, L. Varigina-Verdier, and the expulsion of a number of Soviet staffers from France.

In fact, AFP, citing very well-informed circles, suddenly announced that the Soviet staffers "were in no way involved in the Ariane case." At the same time, it has been reported in the press that there are inconsistencies in the French secret service's charge that Lyudmila Varigina-Verdier was involved in the "theft" of Ariane secrets. As LE MATIN writes, people close to the prime minister have let it be known that the Varigina file "doesn't contain very much yet."

The reaction to these reports has been remarkable. The French Interior Ministry has refused to comment on them. The French Foreign Ministry has also avoided responding, hiding instead behind the highly diplomatic phrase: "We made no concrete link between the expulsion of the Soviet staffers and the Ariane rocket case. We merely pointed out that the people expelled had engaged in activity incompatible with their status."

This is the kind of situation which begs the question: "Was there a crime at all?" If there wasn't a crime, that is, if there were no grounds for expelling the Soviet employees, as the Soviet Embassy stated from the very beginning with the utmost responsibility, and no grounds for the arrest or subsequent detention of L. Vargina-Verdier, who needed all this malevolent anti-Soviet ballyhoo? AFP gives the precise name and address -- the DST, the French special services, which is behind the "case" of the theft of the Ariane secrets and the orchestration of the anti-Soviet fuss connected with it. Thus it is clear why there was no comment. Indeed, what comment could be made when the organizers of the anti-Soviet provocation simply got themselves into a mess and at the same time put in an uncomfortable position those French leaders who believed their cock-and-bull stories.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA BERATES AFP CORRESPONDENTS

PM181045 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 May 87 First Edition p 5

[Igor Gapochka article: "In a Hurry 'To Make News': How French Correspondents 'Show Concern' About Human Rights in the USSR"]

[Text] In a transmission by the French television channel Antenne-2, the announcer declares convincingly: "It's not so easy to find out the news without AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE." However, on acquaintance with the information transmitted by this agency from Moscow you come to another conclusion: It is not so easy to find out the truth from it.

"More often than not big news is bad news" -- this is how the agency defines its credo in an announcement issued by it on the principles of its work. The majority of journalists, explained Marc Yutten [name as published], the author of the article, "are occupied with their daily bread, in other words, information which might appear ephemeral and insignificant if it were not for the fact that it was precisely what someone was waiting for...."

Just who is demanding this precise approach to the reporting of events in the world from a major news agency, which has always aspired to accuracy and objectivity? What "ephemeral" news is AFP supplying from Moscow?

Its correspondent De Sesse [name as published], for example, conveyed to many countries by agency channels a false report about a "student protest demonstration against their teacher's arrest and subsequent conviction for anti-Soviet activity," which allegedly occurred in the city of Kutaisi. However, the man named by them enjoyed "great popularity" not in student auditoriums, but among secondhand dealers on the black market. When in accordance with criminal law he was convicted for profiteering, naturally, no demonstrations took place in the city.

Correspondent Milan Dragovic insistently touted via agency and diplomatic channels a fabrication on the "extinction of the Russian people." This "document," crammed with quotations from Hitler's "Mein Kampf," was passed off as... a report allegedly prepared by the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

At the end of March, this same Dragovic "rewrote" in his report an interview given by a Soviet academician to TASS, inserting into it "the names of forgotten communists." I called Academician I.I. Mints, Chairman of the Scientific Council for the Comprehensive Program "The History of the Great October Socialist Revolution," to ask what Isaac Izrailevich thought of such "coauthorship":

"It is some sort of misunderstanding. They have invented all this...."

Briefly, that's it -- but I believe that comment is superfluous here. Unfortunately, Dragovic is not the only French journalist who considers such "blunders" a quite normal phenomenon in his work. They are convinced that their compatriots will not bother to verify the information they feed them. They will not be able to. But what if everything was checked up on?

For example, a report went out from the Moscow office of AFP about the "sentencing of 49-year-old Narouir Airpikyan to another 3 years in labor camps." Citing "dissident sources," AFP maintained that he was "accused of profiteering and will serve his sentence in Mordovia." When this report came back from Paris on the TASS teletype in Moscow, I was immediately confused by the French correspondents' exploitation of such questionable "sources." This is what I discovered: In its haste, AFP apparently got even his name mixed up: We are talking about Paruyr Arshavirovich Ayrikyan, then in exile in Irkutsk Oblast. But not in "a camp in Mordovia." And he was not convicted for profiteering, but..., However, everything in its turn.

At that time I managed to contact P.A. Ayrikyan in Irkutsk Oblast by telephone:

"News has appeared in the Western press in which your name is mentioned as an example of 'the infringement of human rights.' AFP in particular has demonstrated 'concern' for you, announcing that your term of imprisonment had been extended by another 3 years. How can you comment on this announcement"?

"I am not going to talk about all the fuss in the West. I will only talk about the specific fact of the announcement of my arrest: I am sorry that such a mistake has been made; it is at best a mistake."

"More likely it's a premeditated lie!"

"Indeed, someone did call the AFP correspondent, but the report that I am being persecuted is quite incorrect. I do not want to say that I have lived these years in ideal conditions, that everything was fine and that I was simply delighted...."

"Those people in France or any other Western country who read the report might get the impression that you were the 'victim of repression for dissidence." For what specific criminal actions were you convicted? Did AFP give a true account"?

"I was convicted under Soviet law of particularly dangerous state crimes, and not for anything else.... If you are talking about my responsibility, then I was convicted for illegal activity rather than for my ideas. In 1969, in accordance with articles 65-67 of the Armenian SSR Criminal Code, I was convicted for setting up a nationalist organization which engaged in underground antistate activity. The second time, in 1974, for the same thing.... From 1974 I held the leading position in an illegal group."

"But AFP reported that you were convicted on a false charge of profiteering?"

"Nobody has ever charged me with that. In 1982 at the end of the sentence -- after my second sentence -- I was convicted under article 174 of the RSFSR Criminal Code for bribery. While incarcerated I tried to maintain links with like-minded people, and with the objective of maintaining these links I gave bribes. I was sentenced to another 3 years' imprisonment for this."

"Now that several years have elapsed, how do you regard the fact of your participation in the activity of an illegal nationalist group, and how do you regard those who, in committing actions punishable by law, have tried to find support for themselves in the West?"

"I only want to talk about myself.... You know that everyone can make mistakes. It seems to me that I have not made a mistake which is irreparable. With age you come to see many things differently...."

"One last question. What could you say to those representatives of the 'free press' who are so concerned about your fate?"

"I am alive and well. I visit Irkutsk, where I am an external student at the institute -- I have been granted this opportunity."

Ayrikyan's term in exile has come to an end. Everything is in order with him. But everything is not in order in the Moscow office of AFP -- especially since the right-wing political forces who are trying if not to break off then at least to impede the Soviet-French dialogue became active in France.

We are convinced of this yet again by the report by AFP journalist Sylvie Kauffman about an alleged Moscow "demonstration by women demanding freedom for pacifists." No one in the Soviet Union is sent to prison for desiring peace. Perhaps she confused our country with the United States. It is there that activists of the antiwar movement are arrested.

One thing is indisputable: Such "juggling with the facts" by the AFP's Moscow office reflects a definite "prescription" in the activity of certain French correspondents. Much becomes clear if you look at precisely who is sent from Paris "to make the news" from Moscow....

Andre Biryukoff [name as published] worked in the Moscow office from 1979 to 1982. He was obliged to leave our country in haste when his links with the reactionary anti-Soviet organization "People's Labor Alliance" [NTS] were revealed. In 1985 he was thrown out of Cuba for activity incompatible with the status of a foreign correspondent; in other words, for hostile espionage activity.

Vladimir Zhedilyagin [name as published], who represented the agency in Moscow from 1981 to 1982, also found in AFP a suitable "cover" for subversive anti-Soviet activities. Also Russian by nationality, this "special emissary" from the NTS came to the Soviet Union by no means nostalgic for his lost homeland. From childhood he had been inculcated with other ideas. His father, Zhedilyagin-Shelestov [name as published], a White Russian emigre and accomplice of the Nazis, who actively collaborated during the war years with the fascist counterespionage SD [Sicherheitsdienst], reached the "level of the famous" in the NTS. He helped his son land a "cushy job" -- on the international editorial staff of AFP. Vladimir's stepmother, Aleksandra Vydrina [name as published], after graduating from a fascist intelligence school, served in the "Russian liberation army" put together by the Hitlerites and participated personally in atrocities on occupied territory, while her first husband, a spy-saboteur operating in the USSR, was caught red-handed and in 1953 was severely punished. Thus Vladimir Zhedilyagin was received by no means in the spirit of love for Mother-Russia.

Reactionary emigre organizations in France have actively exploited these journalists, especially those of "Russian blood," to fuel a fabricated campaign in "defense of human rights."

For some years now reports about the "persecution of dissidents in the USSR" have appeared in the pages of the French bourgeois press. Meanwhile the essence of the question was fully explained for the French public in M.S. Gorbachev's replies to questions put by L'HUMANITE in February last year: "...with regard to political prisoners, we don't have any in our country, just as there is no persecution of citizens for their beliefs. People are not judged by their beliefs in our country. But every state must defend itself against those who encroach upon it and urge people to undermine or destroy it, and, finally, those who spy on behalf of foreign intelligence services. According to our laws these actions are classified as state crimes."

However, the leadership of AFP does not seem to want to take into account either the existing state of affairs or common sense. During his last visit to Moscow, French President F. Mitterrand, addressing the Soviet leader, rated highly the traditions of relations between our countries, those sympathies and mutual attraction which have prevailed over the crises and the conflicts. He also spoke about the opportunities to improve people's degree of informedness, including, apparently, that of the French. But perhaps this task does not concern AFP if in its work narrow political and transitory interests have prevailed over national interests?

AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY BENEFITS EUROPE, DISPLEASES U.S.

PM171331 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 May 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent N. Novikov dispatch: "Treaty Tested for Durability"]

[Excerpts] Vienna -- On 15 May, the Austrian people will be celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the State Treaty on the Restoration of an Independent and Democratic Austria. [passage omitted]

Austria's state treaty and policy of permanent neutrality have contributed objectively and continue to contribute to the existence of a zone of peace and stability in central Europe. This was graphically demonstrated by the years when the detente process was at the stage of its most dynamic development. Today, when we are faced with the urgent problem of mankind's survival and its liberation from the nuclear threat, Austria, like other neutral states, has considerable potential to make a positive contribution to intensifying the European process and strengthening peace.

Meanwhile, facts show that some are openly opposed to Austria's neutrality. The stand taken by Austria on many international issues irritates those across the ocean and in the NATO headquarters. The upper echelons of NATO would like to see the alpine republic as an "unregistered" member of the North Atlantic bloc. Those on the banks of the Potomac also do not conceal their displeasure with regard to the good relations which exist between Austria and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. This explains U.S. propaganda's "warnings" to Austria of a "Soviet threat."

But the matter is not restricted to warnings alone. On various pretexts the United States tries to control and in every way impede Austrian exports to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

It should be emphasized that the state treaty and the law on Austria's permanent neutrality served as the medium in which good, friendly Soviet-Austrian relations first germinated.

Success attends our economic ties. In 1986 the trade turnover between the USSR and Austria reached 1.4 billion rubles, or 23 billion Austrian schillings. Reciprocal supplies of machinery and equipment hold an important place in this trade. The range of goods exchanged has grown considerably. Favorable prospects have opened up for the formation and operation of joint Soviet-Austrian enterprises.

In the present complex international situation, Soviet-Austrian relations remain stable. They are not subject to fluctuations in the political climate, because they are based on the state treaty and Austria's permanent neutral status. They can serve as a convincing example of fruitful, peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems.

PRAVDA ON UK 'WHITE PAPER' ON DEFENSE POLICY

PM131419 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 May 87 Second Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column" by Arkadiy Maslenniko: "Nuclear Chains"]

[Text] London -- The British Government has published in London its "white paper" on defense issues, which sets out the main aspects of its policy in the years to come.

Presenting this document to journalists, Secretary of State for Defense G. Younger laid particular emphasis on the fact that the Thatcher cabinet does not intend to make any substantial changes to its concept of relying on nuclear arms. The government, the "white paper" states, remains loyal to its commitments to maintain a strong defense -- both nuclear and conventional -- while striving at the same time to improve dialogue with the Soviet Union.

It must be said that in the situation now taking shape, those who are responsible for the formulation of British foreign policy are finding it difficult to reconcile the militarist thinking traditionally characteristic of ruling Conservative circles with the new, constructive trends in international relations, which have arisen recently as a result of the USSR's peace initiatives. Prime Minister M. Thatcher's recent visit to the Soviet Union, the warm reception given to her by Soviet people, and the meetings and talks held in Moscow have considerably worn down the mythical image of the "uncompromising enemy," which is how the Soviet Union has been depicted for decades by reactionary propaganda here [in London]. In these conditions it is far more difficult for the authors of this "white paper" to validate the need to increase military expenditure and prove the expediency of the expensive program to modernize "nuclear means of deterrence," the absence of which would supposedly leave Britain and the whole of Western Europe "defenseless" in the face of "Soviet expansionism" and the USSR's alleged "willingness to use its military might to achieve its political aims."

Nevertheless, they are doing precisely this. According to the preliminary outline contained in the "white paper," British military expenditure in the forthcoming 1987-1988 fiscal year is to reach 18,782 million pounds sterling, which is more than double the military budget 8 years ago when the Conservative government led by Thatcher first came into power. But even this is not the limit. By 1989 total military expenditure is to come close to 20 billion pounds sterling, after which, according to the authors of this "white paper," the country's defense budget will "level out to a certain extent."

Whitehall says that it welcomes the new thinking on the agenda of international politics by the Soviet leadership and that it is prepared to develop constructive relations with the Soviet Union. There can be no doubt that these words would sound more convincing if its proposed defense measures were to be oriented toward detente rather than a buildup of the destructive arsenals envisaged in Britain's new military programs.

MOSCOW TELEVISION INTERVIEWS UK'S HEALEY

LD160345 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 14 May 87

[Interview with Denis Healey, UK Labour Party spokesman for foreign affairs, by political observer Boris Kalyagin; Healey in English with superimposed Russian translation; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kalyagin] Hello, Comrades! Our interviewee today is Denis Healey, one of the leading figures of the British Labour Party -- the country's chief opposition party -- and foreign secretary in the Labour Party's so-called shadow cabinet. Denis Healey, there has arisen today a real opportunity to rid the European Continent -- our European home -- of a considerable proportion of the nuclear arsenals that have accumulated in it. We proposed eliminating all the medium-range Soviet and U.S. missiles and the operational and tactical missiles in Europe, taking into account the West's proposal, President Reagan's so-called zero option. Now we are even proposing two zero options. What do you and your party think of that initiative and what, in your opinion, are the prospects of reaching an agreement on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles?

[Healey] The zero option for medium-range missiles was first proposed to Brezhnev by Labour Party Leader Michael Foot and me. We support that proposal 100 percent and we are glad that the Soviet Union also supports it. We think, though, that it also would be preferable to eliminate the 100 warheads that the Soviet Union intends to keep in Asia so the United States will not keep its 100 warheads on its territory. I believe that your security in the Far East can be ensured by other means and, of course, for the purpose of verification, it would be preferable to eliminate all arms of that class, rather than to leave 100 warheads. We nevertheless support your initiative and firmly support another zero option -- namely the elimination of everything that you call operational and tactical missiles. We call them reduced-range missiles. I think that we are bringing all our influence to bear on the British Government to make Great Britain expound its position on this question with considerably greater clarity. We are also trying to influence the FRG Government to express its agreement with the missile proposal. Agreement already has been expressed by Foreign Minister Genscher, in contrast to FRG Chancellor Kohl.

[Kalyagin] We try to go halfway to meet the West's position, taking their wishes into account. But one gets the impression that as soon as we accept the proposals of Western governments, they themselves begin to deviate from them and put forward new conditions. The impression now is that certain Western leaders have an interest not in reducing nuclear missiles in Europe, but in equalizing their levels, as they put it; in other words building up their own missiles. Is that really a path toward disarmament?

[Healey] I do not think that is really the serious view of any of the Western governments, in particular the FRG Government, with which I cannot agree. [as heard] I do not think that when it comes to making a final decision, the FRG Government will consider it preferable to leave a certain quantity of missiles on its territory. A recent public opinion poll showed that three-fourths of the FRG population, or 77 percent, support the zero option, both for medium-range missiles and for operational and tactical missiles. I believe that in 1 or 2 months we will be able to reach a concrete agreement on this question. It will be the first step toward creating an international security system that would recognize the interdependence of the world today that your general secretary spoke of at the 27th CPSU Congress last spring.

[Kalyagin] We, of course, would prefer to rid the European Continent of all nuclear arms altogether, but many Western leaders currently are speaking in their defense. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was recently in our country, as you know. She had the opportunity to speak to Soviet television viewers and showed herself to be quite consistent and, I would say, a zealous supporter of keeping nuclear arms, calling them the best guarantee of peace. What is your opinion?

[Healey] As you probably know, the Labour Party and I personally do not agree with Thatcher on this question, and I think that many people in Great Britain -- even people who do not support the Labour Party -- are very anxious over the new stance the Conservative government has adopted. It is of the opinion that even if there is a balance of conventional weapons in Europe, Great Britain and other Western countries must still have their own nuclear weapons in order to threaten the Soviet Union, so neither side is able to attack the other using conventional forces. Now, however, we have approximate parity, although in certain types of weapons -- for example tanks -- you have superiority. It is therefore very important for both sides in Europe to start talks not only on reducing conventional weapons by 25 percent -- which is what your government proposed -- but also on reducing the superiority of the West and the East in whatever area.

Parity must be restored by reducing weapons, and not by building up the interior side. I hope that we will soon get down to this question.

I believe that you are not making full use of the principle of glasnost, which you have adopted for your domestic affairs, in the sphere of foreign policy. The West's information on your forces in Europe currently depends on intelligence data obtained by satellite; yet it would be greatly to your benefit at the talks if you were to tell us frankly, as we tell you, what forces you have in Eastern Europe. Otherwise, we will have to rely on data that may be inflated for political propaganda reasons. During my talks in Moscow over the past 2 days, I appreciated very highly the fact that you are ready to place your cards on the table. That needs to be done in future talks to ascertain what points in your position worry us, and what it is in our position that worries you, so that we would be given the same sort of detailed information as was given to the United States in Reykjavik on strategic nuclear forces. More openness and readiness to expound all the facts will help both sides advance along the path of cooperation and ending the arms race.

[Kalyagin] I believe that in Vienna at the talks on reducing armed forces and weapons in central Europe, our representatives give the Western representatives figures about our armed forces, and the talk of the enormous advantage held by the Warsaw Pact countries in the military sphere really is, of course, of a mythical nature. Our side has superiority in one type of weapon, the West in another. You mentioned tanks, for example. It is true that the Warsaw Pact countries do have more tanks, but, on the other hand, the countries in the NATO bloc have considerably more antitank weapons. But, in any case, the main thing is that the Warsaw Pact countries came out with a proposal for a radical reduction in armed forces and weapons throughout the whole of Europe, from the Atlantic to the Urals, and we are awaiting a reply from the NATO countries. So far there has been no reply. We also feel that there must be a reduction in conventional weapons equal to that of nuclear weapons.

[Healey] Yes, I agree. I personally have criticized Western governments for not even agreeing on a procedure for discussing these questions, not to mention the aim that must be set in the talks. But the Warsaw Pact countries have so far not shown a readiness to provide detailed information about the Warsaw Pact forces in Eastern Europe and therefore the reduction talks have been unequal. We publish our figures, but you do not publish yours. Even during the discussions over the past 2 days when I touched on that question, I was asked to refer to figures published by private organizations in Western Europe, in particular the International Institute of Strategic Studies, in the establishment of which, incidentally, I took a personal part.

[Kalyagin] I think that even what you have been saying, your approach, is evidence that serious talks must be started between the Warsaw Pact countries and the NATO countries, and I think that when we receive a reply -- a positive reply, if there is one -- from the NATO organization, there will be talks and there will be an exchange of all the figures, all the information, that is needed. But there is also another threat, a threat which could come from space. At Reykjavik, the possibility of scrapping all strategic nuclear armaments took shape, but it also became clear there that President Reagan's SDI is standing in the way of this, and regrettably the British Government is taking part in developing [razrabotka] this program. What is the Labour Party's attitude to these plans?

[Healey] The Labour Party and I personally very frequently have spoken out against President Reagan's SDI, against what we call Star Wars. We were against the British Government's decision to take part in in it, although I must note that such participation is envisaged on an extremely low level. [Former] Defense Secretary Heseltine said initially that we would get contracts worth approximately 1.5 billion pounds sterling. As far as I am aware, the figures are much smaller: Only around 43 million pounds sterling.

I think that it will be very dangerous for the whole world if either country attempts to create a defense against strategic weapons of the kind that President Reagan is talking about. But I am bound to say that only a small number of people in the United States -- and even those directly involved in the creation of the so-called SDI -- are convinced that it can really be effective. It can be successful in the creation of a local defense, such as the one you already have created around Moscow.

We also know that the United States is conducting laser technology research. As far as we know, you also are carrying out similar research. Former U.S. defense secretaries like Schlesinger and many others are speaking out against the SDI because the program will merely lead to another twist in the arms race spiral, not to enhanced security. But we must consider the realities, and one of them is the fact that the U.S. Congress presently does not want to provide the President with the necessary funds to finance SDI.

I was very encouraged by the fact that your representative in Geneva, Mr Karpov, defined your position in a very positive, new way. If I am not mistaken, he declared that the United States and the Soviet Union should attempt to draw up a draft agreement on a 50-percent reduction in strategic armaments on the understanding that if the United States contravenes the ABM Treaty or starts to site weapons in space, the Soviet Union will no longer consider itself obliged to observe the treaty on reductions in strategic armaments. It seems to me that this new definition of the Soviet position is very useful because it helps to continue the talks, although there are of course substantial obstacles in the path of these talks. During my conversations in Moscow, I expressed the hope that in light of what Mr Karpov said, an agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States can be achieved relatively rapidly, perhaps not on all the details of a treaty on a 50-percent reduction of strategic nuclear forces, because that will of course require more time, but on the general principles of such a treaty.

[Kalyagin] We desire to reach an agreement on strategic armaments and, naturally, an agreement which would tightly close the door to the penetration of weapons into space. This is because I quite agree with you: SDI will not improve the United States' security, but it will destabilize the situation in the world, because we cannot sit around idly while the United States is building up military preparations aimed at the militarization of space. [passage omitted]

I would like to go on to Soviet-British relations, because we have spoken about you possibly coming to Moscow again. What are the prospects for their being expanded, and what is the British attitude to the development of links between our countries?

[Healey] As you probably know, Britain's trade with the Soviet Union has fallen considerably under the present government. We hope to expand trade with the Soviet Union, although we recognize that you, like any other country, can only buy the goods that are competitive, both in terms of quality and price and in terms of delivery dates. [passage omitted]

I personally have made many critical remarks about the present U.S. Administration. Those remarks have often been repeated by my U.S. political colleagues, particularly Democratic Party members of the U.S. Congress. I would now like the U.S. Administration to base its actions more on a vision of the world which does not envisage the self-destruction of mankind in a nuclear war. It seems to me we must all make efforts to ensure that the shadow of self-destruction is finally removed from our lives.

[Kalyagin] Perhaps you could say a few words about your present visit to our country. I know that you held interesting meetings and talks. What have the results been?

[Healey] I spent 2 hours in conversation with Dobrynin and I had very pleasant conversation with Shevardnadze. During the conversations I have had here I was struck by the fact that the Soviet leadership has a clear program aimed at saving the country and the whole of mankind from the nuclear threat, at delivering us from the nuclear trap we all fell into 40 years ago. Like all statesmen who have recently visited your country -- including Thatcher -- my visit has left a great impression on me. Naturally, I understand that Thatcher substantially changed her stance, her attitude toward Gorbachev's policies, like Admiral James Eberle of the Royal Institute of International Relations. They all left your country with the firm conviction that you are serious in your intentions to strengthen peace. There are certain problems, some of which I raised in my conversations, but I believe that if we maintain the constructive approach which has been in evidence over the past two years, we shall be able to overcome both the technical and political obstacles in the way of talks, and even those who are possessed by nuclear mania, as Gerasimov said yesterday, will not be able to oppose it.

[Kalyagin] Denis Healey, thank you for your interesting and detailed replies. Until we meet again in Moscow.

[Healey] Thank you. I hope that the opportunity will present itself.

MOSCOW ON JUSTIFICATIONS FOR U.S. BASES IN GREECE

NC192037 Moscow in Greek to Greece 1800 GMT 19 May 87

[Sergey Ivanov commentary]

[Text] First of all, I do not want you to think I am attempting to force a foreign viewpoint upon you. I would just like to express some of my thoughts as an expert in military matters. When troops from one country are on the territory of another, the question is raised: Why were these troops stationed here? If the foreign troops' presence serves the security interests of this country's people, then their stay is justified and logical. If, however, this is not the case, then what?

Let us examine the existence of U.S. bases on Greek territory from this point of view. I am certain you know very well the arguments put forth by the supporters of the bases; specifically, the Red threat. This is the scarecrow with which U.S. politicians and militarists increasingly threaten the Greeks.

However, does such a terrible threat truly exist? The question arises what threat are they speaking about when the Soviet Union publicly announced its intention not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and that it is generally prepared to eradicate them if the other side does the same.

What threat are they talking about when our country has proposed the mutual withdrawal of Soviet and U.S. fleets from the Mediterranean Sea and its convention into a zone of peace and confidence?

The absence of logic in the argument about the Soviet threat to Greece also is confirmed by the two countries' friendly and beneficial relations. It also is verified by the change in the Greek military doctrine, which in the past was directed by Washington and reacted to the legendary danger from the north.

Because this threat only exists in the sick imagination of Pentagon generals, why are these bases truly necessary? Here I shall go to the heart of the matter.

Greece is of great strategic importance to the West, for the United States as well as for NATO, because of its location at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. These words were spoken by Richard Haas, assistant U.S. secretary of state [title as heard].

What exactly do these words conceal? It is clear even to the layman that one only has to take two steps from Greece to reach the southern Soviet border, particularly if one uses bombers. U.S. bombers with nuclear weapons on board have been stationed at a base in Greece for the past 20 years on an around-the-clock state of alert. Even the target of the 164 U.S. nuclear units [monadhes] stored on your territory, dear Greek listeners, also is well known.

It also must be noted that the U.S. bases in Greece are not the sole integral part of the excellent network of U.S. military bases and installations from which missiles and bombers are aimed at our country. As can be gleaned from the facts, the bases on Greek territory play an important role for U.S. strategy aimed at enforcing its military superiority in the Mediterranean. Let us recall the events of 1983. At that time, the U.S. bases in Greece were used to intervene in the Arab-Israeli conflict to support Israel. The ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, anchored in Crete, shelled and attacked Lebanon that year and were used in the attack on Libyan cities in April 1986. In short, the bases in Greece serve selfish U.S. interests in the region, and assign Greece the role of a bridgehead for the deployment of U.S. forces.

Naturally, dear listeners, questions may be raised in this connection. You may claim that the bases mean employment for the Greeks. However, it is doubtful that the positions of street cleaners, waiters, and porters can solve your country's unemployment problem. Another objection may be the fact that the bases are paid for by the United States for [words indistinct] of threat. But can you say how much security costs? I believe security is invaluable, and it is unlikely that you can be satisfied with the prospect of death for the sake of U.S. interests at a price of $50 for every Greek.

Well, will the U.S. bases remain on Greek territory or not? You, yourselves, must answer this question, dear friends. You must decide your country's future. If my views have peaked your interest or raised questions, then write to us. We will exchange views and have a discussion if necessary, because truth comes out of discussion.

MALTESE PRIME MINISTER CITED ON FOREIGN TIES

PM151444 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 May 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Special correspondent M. Ilinskiy report: "Malta: After the Elections:]

[Text] After accepting the resignation of Prime Minister Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici, leader of the Labour Party, Paul Xuereb, acting president of the Republic of Malta, called Edward Fenech Adami, leader of the Nationalist Party, which came to power as a result of the 9 May parliamentary elections, to be sworn in as prime minister.

The new prime minister held his first news conference. He expressed satisfaction with the election results and stated that the new cabinet will be a "government of renewal of the country, while fully observing democratic principles." The prime minister, answering journalists' questions, presented the main avenues of the foreign and domestic policy course of Malta's nationalist government.

Reaffirming his party's desire to step up political and economic links with Western countries, the head of the new cabinet noted that the nationalist government intends to commence talks with the Common Market on the possibility of Malta's joining that organization. The new administration will carry out "further rapprochement with the United States." At the same time it was stressed that Malta will not join any military alliances or make its territory available for military purposes (this would undermine its national sovereignty and security). This position does not preclude possible intergovernmental treaties with Western countries that have interests in the Mediterranean region. Journalists are coming to the conclusion that the nationalist leadership will place the main emphasis on the development of ties first and foremost with Italy, Britain, and the FRG.

During the news conference, an important place was assigned to questions of Malta's relations with the Soviet Union. The prime minister reaffirmed Malta's desire to develop friendly relations with the Soviet Union on the basis of equal partnership, mutual understanding, and cooperation.

After the news conference, Prime Minister E. Fenech Adami received IZVESTIYA's correspondent in his office at Nationalist Party headquarters. He told him:

"In recent years relations between Malta and the Soviet Union have developed exclusively positively. The nationalist government will seek every means of developing these good links, as I told journalists at the news conference.

"The recent period has been marked by a significant growth in trade exchange between our countries. The new government will seek not only to maintain trade ties at the proper level, but to increase them."

VORONTSOV MEETS ITALY'S FANFANI IN ROME

PM131603 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report]

[Text] Rome, 12 May -- Amintore Fanfani, chairman of the Italian Council of Ministers, has received Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, who is here in the Italian capital.

During their conversation, the head of the Italian Government was informed about the Soviet stand and the state of affairs at the USSR-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva. The main attention during the conversation was devoted to the possibility that has now appeared of reaching an accord on removing medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

A. Fanfani thanked him for the information and said that the Italian Government considers it essential to bring the Geneva talks to the signing of a medium-range missile treaty in the near future. The chairman of the Council of Ministers stressed that time must not be lost in this important matter.

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ISRAEL 14 MAY

TA141923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] A six-member Soviet delegation arrived in Israel this evening to participate in celebrations marking the 42d anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany. Our correspondent Tal Rabina notes that the delegation includes Soviet officials, writers, and artists. The delegation members said they were not conveying an official message but expressed support for an international conference.

Comments on Ties

TA201809 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 87 p A2

[Report by Re'uven Ben-tzvi]

[Excerpt] "There will be room to discuss the resumption of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations in the course of the international conference." This statement was made yesterday by Vladimir Kotsakov [name as published], representative of the Soviet news agency NOVOSTI, who speaks Hebrew fluently.

Kotsakov was replying to questions presented by reporters at a reception held by the Haifa mayor for a visiting Soviet delegation, which came to Israel on the occasion of the 42d anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

In reply to another question, Kotsakov said that certainly it would be desirable to include the PLO in such a conference, adding that it is not a good idea to present preconditions to the conference's convocation.

Haifa Mayor Arye Gur'el suggested to the delegation members that ties be established between Soviet and Israeli cities, beginning with two port towns: Haifa and Odessa. He said that in view of the difficulties the two governments are encountering in engaging in a dialogue, the cities could contribute toward better relations.

The Soviet delegation head Sergey Brozdin [name as published], the secretary of the Soviet writers union, replied that the Haifa mayor's proposal is better than Shim'on Peres' suggestion that the two countries renew their diplomatic ties before the international conference opens. Brozdin promised Gur'el that when he returns to Moscow he will pass the suggestion on to the Soviet friendship association. [passage omitted]

ISRAELI ATTITUDES ON NEAR EAST CONFERENCE NOTED

PM151215 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 May 87 Second Edition p 5

[Report by correspondent Yu. Glukhov: "On the Verge of Collapse"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, 14 May -- Israel's coalition government is on the verge of collapse. Yesterday S. Peres, Israeli vice prime minister and foreign minister, urged Prime Minister Y. Shamir to retire. AP reports that Peres made this appeal after a lengthy session of the coalition government, which was unable to reach a unanimous opinion on the question of an international conference on the Near East. [paragraph continues]

But the varying attitudes toward convening it displayed by the coalition partners were only the pretext for the eruption of differences in the government and the sharp aggravation of the internal political crisis. The underlying reasons are the bankruptcy of Tel Aviv's aggressive expansionist course and the Camp David policy of separate deals.

Israeli Prime Minister Y. Shamir and the right-wing Likud bloc he heads categorically oppose convening an international conference on a Near East settlement. Vice Premier Minister S. Peres and his supporters from the Israeli Labor Party [ILP] bloc he heads are -- formally -- in favor of a conference, but the kind of conference that could become a sort of "umbrella" for Tel Aviv's separate deals with the Arab countries.

This question was discussed within the narrow composition of the Israeli Government. Five Likud ministers and five ILP ministers tried in vain to find a common language. [passage omitted]

It is indicative that for all the ferocity of the debates there are essentially no differences between Likud and the ILP. They are united in denying the Palestinians' rights to create their own independent state and in refusing to recognize the PLO as a fully empowered participant in talks. In other words, there are only tactical differences between them.

It should be said that the idea of convening a peace forum enjoys great popularity among the Israelis, who are tired of the endless wars. Hence the ILP's attempts to adapt to the general mood. But the Israeli public, like the public of the Arab countries and the whole world, expects not speculations on a popular slogan but a genuine quest for peace.

IZVESTIYA VIEWS 'DANGEROUS' GULF SITUATION

PM201549 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Commentary by Konstantin Geyvandov under the rubric "A Political Observer's Opinion": "The Persian Gulf: Dangerous Trends"]

[Text] Judging by appearances, it seems likely that in a few months' time, Iran and Iraq will mark the next, the seventh, anniversary of the bloody war between the two countries since no end to the war is in sight. The conflict therefore remains the object of the international public's unabated alarm. The systematic efforts of the United Nations to end this slaughter are one indication of this. A few days ago, for instance, members of the UN Security Council discussed a report of a group of experts whom the UN Secretary General had instructed to investigate allegations that chemical weapons were used during the war. A subsequent statement by the council's chairman again condemned the continuation of the war which, in addition to violations of the international humanitarian law, is claiming more and more lives, inflicting tremendous material damage on the two states, and jeopardizing peace and security in the area of the Persian Gulf. The statement again appeals to both sides to enter into cooperation with the UN Security Council in its efforts aimed at achieving a settlement of the conflict on a fair and honorable basis at the earliest possible date.

Such assessments of the continuing Iran-Iraq war unquestionably reflect the acute and dangerous nature of the problem. This is felt particularly keenly in the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, which form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Statesmen, politicians, and public figures in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates spoke to me about this with unconcealed alarm during my recent visit there. It is therefore not surprising that the efforts of the GCC, as Y.A. Bisharah, the organization's secretary general, reiterated a few days ago, are aimed at explaining the dangerous consequences of a continuation of the war in the Persian Gulf and finding a way of establishing peace between the warring parties. He deemed it necessary to add that Gulf countries reaffirm their desire to maintain good relations with their Iranian neighbor and favor the establishment of peace, security, and stability in the region on the basis of friendly relations, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and mutual respect.

What is the alternative to this position? Continued bloodshed and more loss of life? More than 1 million people have already been killed or wounded. More damage to be inflicted on each other? The selfsame statistics lovers have calculated that the material damage inflicted on the two countries by the war exceeds $400 billion. The said sum constitutes almost half of the entire foreign debt of the so-called third world states. Who could work out how much time and effort it will cost Iran and Iraq to restore their potential after the war?

From the viewpoint of those who are not directly involved in the Iran-Iraq conflict it would not be too bad if the matter were confined to the aforementioned questions. However, unfortunately this is not the case. The zone of military operations has a dangerous tendency to expand beyond the confines of the two warring countries with every new round, thus threatening peace and security in the Persian Gulf zone. In its waters a real tanker war is being waged with unabated intensity, in the course of which a Soviet ship came under fire recently. A few days ago the U.S. frigate Stark was subjected to a missile attack. The large-capacity Soviet tanker Marshal Chuykov heading for the Kuwaiti port of Mina al-Ahmadi hit what is presumed to have been a mine. Shortly afterwards a Norwegian tanker was attacked.

What was the result? As was to be expected, the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf itself built up each time. And there was an assurance from R. Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, after his recent trip to the region that the Washington administration, obviously concerned about the "principles of freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf," is looking into the question of further expanding the U.S. military presence. President Reagan has ordered that his naval forces stationed in the Persian Gulf be put on full combat alert and has authorized them to open fire on Iraqi or Iranian targets at their own discretion.

You will agree that against a background developing in this way Tehran's constant "protests" about the escalation of the U.S. military preparations in the region appear hypocritical -- particularly after Irangate -- the well-known behind-the-scenes deals between Washington and Tel Aviv. And all the more so since the Iranian side is now hindering the peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Gulf. There is just as much deception in the anti-Soviet campaign certain Iranian propaganda organs are waging on behalf of the leaders of the "great anti-imperialist revolution."

This is made all the more obvious by the fact that from the outset of the Iraq-Iran war the Soviet Union adopted a pricipled stance of opposition to it based on the belief that it has nothing to do with the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and has advocated its immediate cessation. Not from short-term considerations, furthermore, but because it is guided by its principled course aimed at removing tension and resolving conflict situations by means of talks that take account of all sides' legitimate interests and are free of all foreign interference. That is why the Soviet Government gives every encouragement to all honest and constructive efforts, including those within the UN framework, to resolve the Iran-Iraq armed conflict by political means.

Do the preconditions exist for firm steps to be made right now toward that end? Indeed there are, because I am firmly convinced that there are no disputes between the two warring countries that could not have been settled at the peace talks table. One of the sides embroiled in the conflict, namely Iraq, has long expressed its readiness for that. The world community of nations, in the form of the UN Security Council, adopts a similar stance. Now even those few Arab countries that have expressed solidarity with Iran have changed or are changing their attitude in for of ending the Iraq-Iran war and seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict. It would be good if there were to be no cause to mark that unhappy seventh anniversary.

Moscow Persian Comments

NC201007 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] On 18 May, U.S. President Reagan announced that U.S. warships stationed in the Persian Gulf have been placed on a state of total military alert. On the same day, Israeli airplanes attacked residential areas in Lebanon for the 16th time this year, inflicting immense losses on defenseless civilians.

Aleksandar Pogodin writes: These reports reflect the increasing gravity of the situation and the growing exacerbation of tension in the Near and Middle East. It is obvious that the region's disputes have their own causes and individual characteristics but, like regional conflicts in other parts of the world, there are many common factors, as well. Regardless of whether war is declared or undeclared, people are (?mercilessly) killed. These differences and conflicts are in danger of spilling over their boundaries and of threatening international peace. Past eras clearly prove that regional differences cannot be resolved by restoring to force or a policy of blackmail and intimidation. Yet it is common knowledge that Israeli and U.S. officials do not wish to acknowledge this fact and are stepping up their dependence on the use of military force, which can only result in an increase in world tension.

The Soviet Union believes in the need to eliminate regional conflicts, and urges negotiations as the only means of arriving at an amicable settlement of the Iran-Iraq war. The only way to attain this objective is through the collective effort of many countries, on the basis of respect for the rights of nations seeking to forge an independent future. Therefore, the Soviet Union supports the convocation of an international conference, to be attended by all concerned parties, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council. It is for this reason that the Soviet Union continues to support the idea of active UN participation in efforts to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end. Hence, it proposes that multilateral talks be held on the freedom and safety of shipping in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and throughout the Indian Ocean.

TASS COMMENTS ON RESULTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS

LD071320 Moscow TASS in English 1201 GMT 7 May 87

[Text] Harare May 7 TASS -- The ruling Nationalist Party has expectedly won the whites-only election to the racist parliament in South Africa, in which less than three million of the country's 35 million inhabitants took part.

According to incomplete returns announced in South Africa today, that party will have 116 of the 178 parliamentary seats.

Observers say, however, that the election results spell a moral and political defeat for the ruling regime attempting to perpetuate apartheid by means of terror.

They are evidence that the white community is split more widely than ever before. Some 40 percent of the eligible voters chose not to register at all and thus refused to support the government.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL said the results of the polling in Helderberg, where Denis Worrall, representing the group of "independents" who have quit the Nationalist Party, lost to the Botha governments' minister Chris Heunis by a mere 39 votes, was a serious blow to the South African president.

Worrall's loss was only due to the government commission that counted the votes behind closed doors ruling 48 of the ballots "invalid".

Another "Independent", Wynand Malan, emerged victorious in a Johannesburg suburb.

A fair election involving the black majority would leave the racists no chances of victory, as demonstrated by the returns of unofficial parallel voting sponsored by the SOWETAN newspaper among the residents of Soweto, a black ghetto outside Johannesburg with two million residents.

Most votes there were cast for Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, leaders of the African National Congress (ANC), Joe Slovo, secretary-general of the South African Communist party, and Albertina Sisulu, president of the United Democratic Front (UDF).

UDF spokeswoman Marphy Morobe said the thousands of troops and police moved into black villages could not replace democracy and peace and only helped fuel tension.

Speaking in Johannesburg prominent public figure, Winnie Mandela dismissed the whites-only election as being of no significance to the black people. She said that despite the Botha regime's extraordinary measures to crush resistance to apartheid, it was growing stronger throughout the country.

Responding to a call by the UDF and the congress of South African trade unions, three million people, or nearly all black inhabitants of Johnnesburg, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town areas, stayed away from work on May 5 and 6.

At least 500,000 students boycotted classes.

Wire services reported that the election had marked one of the largest police operations in South African history.

All polling stations were surrounded by tight police cordons. Authorities admitted at least 100 clashes between demonstrators and police in the two days.

Racists fired on demonstrators in Soweto, Cross Roads, Guguletu, Ezakwene and other black settlements. Dozens of people were killed or wounded and more than a hundred arrested.

Nobel Peace Prize holding Archbishop Desmond TUTU said in Cape Town that there would be no peace in South Africa until the black people won equality.

The ANC said in a statement circulated in Johannesburg that the black people were not going to put up with racist "elections". Whatever their results, it added, they had no future which was instead in the hands of those now denied the right to vote.

MOZAMBIQUE TO RECEIVE AID, SCHOLARSHIPS

MB081955 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 8 May 87

[Report by correspondent Jaime Cuambe]

[Text] I have learned that a 3-year commercial credit worth about $48 million will be granted to Mozambique this year by the USSR. The announcement of this credit was made this morning in Maputo by (Aleks Makherov), minister-counsellor at the USSR Embassy in Maputo. He also announced supplementary aid to Mozambique, which he says is worth about $8 million. He also said that a donation from his country, the first consignment of which had already arrived, is expected in Mozambique next month.

According to the minister-counsellor this donation is worth about 100 million rubles. This morning he disclosed that because of the USSR Government's understanding of the problems in Mozambique caused by the war waged by armed bandits and also by hunger, the USSR Government has granted 10 scholarships for children whose parents were victims of this ear and hunger. All these announcements were made at a Red Cross ceremony attended by Rogerio Daniel Polana, deputy chairman of the Mozambican Red Cross.

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED -- Moscow, 20 May (TASS) -- The first trade agreement between the Soviet Union and Botswana was signed today in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade. In particular, it provides for the mutual granting of most-favored nation status. The trade exchange will be conducted in convertible currency on the basis of the prices of the main world markets. The USSR and Botswana are to open trade representations in their countries. Representatives of Botswana's business world have expressed interest in setting up joint enterprises with Soviet organizations on the territory of this country. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1419 GMT 20 May 87 LD]

URUGUAYAN PARLIAMENTARIANS PAY OFFICIAL VISIT

Demichev Receives Delegation

LD192354 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 19 May 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today in the Kremlin, Comrade Demichev received a parliamentary delegation from Uruguay headed by Francisco Forteza member of the Uruguayan General Assembly's Chamber of Deputies. The head of the delegation conveyed a message from Uruguayan President Sanguinetti to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

During a conversation, which passed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the guests were brief on the work that has begun in our country to accelerate the socioeconomic development. When examining international issues, the attention of Uruguayan parliamentarians was drawn to the complex of Soviet foreign political initiatives directed toward the removal of the threat of nuclear war. [video shows Demichev, Voss, and other unidentified men sitting at along table]

Cooperation Assessed

LD202028 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 20 May (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Aleksey Kravchenko reports:

The visit of the Uruguayan parliamentary delegation to the USSR is an important landmark in the cause of strengthening bilateral relations on the basis of mutual benefit and closer drawing together between our countries, Francisco Forteza, a member of the Uruguayan General Assembly's Chamber of Deputies, declared today at a news conference. He is leading a Uruguayan parliamentary delegation that is in the USSR on an official visit at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Soviet-Uruguayan trade and economic cooperation can be expanded, the parliamentarian noted. In our view, this is one of the most important results of the visit. Under discussion were the possibility that Soviet trading and fishing vessels might use the port of Montevideo, that its port services might provide assistance in ensuring the USSR's trade ties with third countries, and other possible aspects of bilateral economic cooperation.

Another result of the visit, said F. Forteza, is the conviction that our people are united by a sincere desire to live in peace. No matter whom we have met in your country -- state officials or cultural workers, collective farmers or workers at a textile mill -- everywhere the theme of peace, its preservation and protection, and the struggle for it has been one of the main themes in our conversations, the head of the Uruguayan parliamentary delegation emphasized.

'U.S. MERCENARIES' ATTACK NICARAGUAN SETTLEMENT

LD190936 Moscow TASS in English 0758 GMT 19 May 87

[Text] Managua May 19 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Trushin reports:

"We have done everything possible to defend Comalapu and fight back the attacks by contras. Many of the defenders perished but the U.S. mercenaries failed to break into the settlement," said peasant Vasilio Garcia, who at one with other milicianos [militiamen] discharged with honour his duty to the homeland

The bandit attack by contras on Comalapu, which is located in Nicargaua's fifth Central Zone, was staged at night last Sunday. The terrorists used in the attack U.S.-made "M-79" automatic rifles, grenade launchers and mortars also supplied to them by the U.S. CIA. Grenade and mine explosions set ablaze peasant houses and the building housing the branch of Nicaragua's Communications Institute. The fire broke out also at the medical centre.

The bandits were confident that after such a fire Comalapu will surrender to them at once. But fourteen milicianos occupied trenches on the outskirts of the village and met the Somozist mercenaries with fire. The fighting ran until next afternoon. Jose Marillo, Miguel Romero, Roberto Alvarado and the 19-year-old Giomara Duarte, the youngest of the milicianos, perished. When cartridges ran out, the defenders of the settlement took up pistols. A battalion of the Sandinist People's Army, which came just in time, has decided the outcome of the fighting. The bandits lost up to a dozen killed or wounded and retreated.

The contras make attempts to scare the Nicaraguan peasants with terror and force them to withdraw support for the Sandinist revolution, said Martin Flores, a local activist of the Sandinist Front. But the intrigues by the U.S. espionage agency suffer a fiasco. The republic's armed people cannot be scared. They are ready to give a rebuff to any terrorist action by Somoza followers. Milicianos of Comalapu have forcefully proved it.

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL ACCORD SIGNED WITH NICARAGUA

For coverage of the agricultural and industrial agreement signed with Nicaragua, and the Nicaraguan assessment of Soviet aid, see the Nicaragua section of the 19 May Latin America DAILY REPORT.

MINISTERS 'BEAR RESPONSIBILITY' FOR BAYKAL POLLUTION

LD150842 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0716 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 15 May (TASS) -- The CPSU Central Committee has considered the question of the responsibility of persons guilty of the nonfulfillment of decisions on the implementation of environmental protection measures in the basin of Lake Baykal.

The adopted decison notes that leaders have displayed a lack of discipline in not ensuring the complete and timely fulfillment of tasks defined by decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, resulting in the pollution of the unique reservoir.

The CPSU Central Committee has demanded that part, local soviet and economic bodies ensure the efficient fulfillment of decisions on this matter. A number of senior employees of corresponding ministries have been given full administrative punishments.

The Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences has been instructed to review the question of raising the responsibility of scientific organizations for working out requirements on questions of the protection and use of natural resources.

The attention of Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Vladimir Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, was drawn to the fact that they bear personal responsibility for the fulfillment of environmental protection measures laid down by a decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on 13 April 1987.

SHCHERBITSKIY PRESIDES OVER TEACHERS' CONGRESS

AU201917 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 16 May 87 p 1

[RATAU report: "A Congress of the Republic's Teachers"]

[Text] In the development of Soviet society the teacher has played a great and responsible role. The party and the people have entrusted pedagogues with a complex, noble, and humane task -- to educate the younger generation. A business-like and brisk discussion on the civil duty and high mission of the workers of the republic's general-educaton and vocational schools was held by the delegates to the Fifth Ukrainian SSR Teachers Congress which opened in the "Ukraina" Palace of Culture in Kiev on 15 May.

The congress was presided over by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Comittee first secretary; I.A. Gerasimov, Yu.N. Yelchenko, Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, B.V. Kachura, A.P. Lyashko, I.A. Mozgovoy, V.A. Sologub, A.A. Titarenko, V.S. Shevchenko, S.I. Gurenko, Yu.A. Kolomiyets, V.A. Masol, and S.N. Mukha, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members. Participating in the congress proceedings were N.N. Mironov, sector chief in the CPSU Central Committee Science and Education Institutional Departments; V.I. Konkin, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education; V.D. Shadrikov, USSR deputy minister of education; and leading functionaries of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium, Council of Ministers, Trade Unions Council Komsomol Central Committee, and a number of the republic's ministries and departments.

The congress was examining the republic's progress in implementing decisions of the 27th CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Congresses and the main guidelines for the reform of the general education and the vocational schools to further improve the quality of teaching and communist education of the younger generation. Reports on behalf of the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and the Ukrainian SSR state Committee for Vocational and Technical Education were delivered by M.V. Fomenko, minister, and Ye.M. Kadatskiy, committee chairman.

The congress continued on 16 May.

UKRAINIAN PAPER ON QUARTER'S ECONOMIC RESULTS

AU131429 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 6 May 87 p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has examined the results of developing the republic's national economy in the 1st quarter and the tasks for ensuring fulfillment of the 1987 plan. It has been noted that, as a result of the measures taken, industry overfulfilled the March plan and the rates of increasing production rose. At the same time, work carried out in March by industry as a whole and by other branches has been found to be unsatisfactory. The schedules for compensating for the shortfalls incurred since the beginning of the year have not been complied with, and supply agreements have not been observed. The quality of many production items continues to be poor, and the volumes set for contract work in construction, for retail commodity turnover, and for payable services to the population have not been reached.

Manifestations of formalism have still continued to recur in restructuring the economy and in changing over to the new methods of management. Not everything has been done to strengthen discipline and good organization, to boost the working people's creative activity and initiative, and to make socialist competitions in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Great October more effective.

Comrades G.G. Nikitenko, Yu.A. Bondar, and P.P. Volkov have been strictly admonished for sluggishness in ensuring rhythmic work at enterprises. The Central Committee requested railroad administration leaders to raise the effectiveness of using means of transportation and to increase the volumes of freight hauled.

The republic's Gosplan, State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, ministries, and departments have been requested to hasten the restructuring of all work which is being carried out to save resources. The Ukrainian State Agro-Indistrial Committee and oblispolkoms are expected to see to it that the spring field works are carried out at the most suitable time, and construction ministries have to take urgent measures to eliminate arrears in capital construction.

Obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms must intensify organizational and political work in labor collectives to consolidate the positive results achieved in March.

The unsatisfactory fulfillment of the 1st quarter 1987 retail commodity turnover and cash plans in the republic has been discussed. In the adopted decision it was noted that, in the period from January to March of the current year, retail commodity turnover fell short of the plan by R761 million. The plan for selling services to th population was also underfulfilled. [paragraph continues]

The Ukrainian Gosplan, Ministry of Trade, Union of Consumer Societies, as well as other ministries and departments, and executive committees of local soviets did not take all the necessary measures to saturate the market with high-quality commodities, to promote payable services, and to improve the organization of services for the population.

The Central Committee Politburo has approved the additional measures presented by the Ukrainian Council of Ministers to provide retail trade with commodity stocks in 1987. The Ukrainian Council of Ministers, Gosplan, ministries, departments, and oblispolkoms have been instructed to concentrate efforts primarily on mobilizing local possibilities and resources to increase production of goods which meet with increased demand, to expand payable services at all enterprises, irrespective of their departmental subordination, to improve the organization of state and cooperative trade, and to apply progressive forms and methods of selling commodities. Obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms are obligated to tighten control over the activity of enterprises and organizations which produce and sell goods or provide services.

There has been an examination of how the republic abided by the main directives for restructuring higher and secondary special education, and of how it organized the implementation of the decisions adopted by the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee to make the main guidelines more definite. Measures have been approved to radically improve the quality of training and the utilization of specialists with higher education, as well as of science teaching and scientific cadres, and to improve material, housing, and living conditions for postgraduate and undergraduate students, and for secondary special school pupils. The Republic's ministries, departments, obkoms, and gorkoms have been instructed to ensure that the higher school is tightly integrated with production and science, to unite the efforts of party, administrative, and economic organs, of the collectives of higher educational establishments, scientific institutions, enterprises, and organizations in the field of training and educating future specialists, and to determine the actual need for these cadres.

GEORGIAN PAPER CARRIES PLENUM PROCEEDINGS

PM061543 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 26 Apr 87 p 1

[GRUZINFORM "Information Report on Georgian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] The Sixth Plenum of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee took place 25 April. Those invited included: party gorkom and raykom first secretaries; secretaries of party committees with the rights of raykoms; ministers and state committee chairmen not belonging to the Central Committee or the Auditing Commission of the Georgian Communist Party; gorispolkom and rayispolkom chairmen; leaders of major enterprises and organizations; and representatives of trade union and Komsomol organizations, science and culture, the mass media, and the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military and Border Districts.

The plenum examined the tasks of the republic's party organization in fulfilling the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum "On Restructuring and the Party's Cadre Policy."

D.I. Patiashvili, first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, gave the report.

The following took part in the discussion: T.V. Lordkipanidze, first secretary of Kutaisi Georgian Communist Party Gorkom; B.V. Adleyba, first secretary of Abkhaz Georgian Commmunist Party Obkom; G.A. Tkemaladze, tunneler with the "Chiaturmarganets" Production Association's Lenin mine administration; N.V. Komakhidze, first secretary of Marneuli Georgian Communist Party Gorkom; A.N. Tavkhelidze, president of the Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences; O.G. Vardzelashvili, deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic's Gosplan; V.L. Gulevich, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District; G.V. Kashakashvili, director of the Rustavi Metallurgical Plant; V.I. Alavidze, first secretary of Tbilisi Georgian Communist Party Gorkom; R.A. Dzhaparidze, chairman of the Georgian SSR State Committee for Labor; N.G. Cherkezivshili, editor of ZARAYA VOSTOKA; S.K. Orlova, stamp operator at the Tbilisi production association named for the USSR's 50th annniversary; G.Kh. Emiridze, first secretary of Adzhar Georgian Communist Party Obkom; G.D. Mgeladze, first deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic's State Agro-Industrial Committee; S.B. Stepanyan, first secretary of Akhalkalakskiy Georgian Communist Party Raykom; L.V. Marshaniya, leader of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee's Center for Improving the Qualifications of Party, Soviet, and Economic Leaders; N.G. Geldiashivili, a spinner at the Gori Cotton Production Association; F.S. Sanakoyev, first secretary of South-Osetian Georgian Communist Party Obkom; V.M. Siradze, chairman of the Georgian Trade Unions Council; R.G. Mgebrishvili, chairman of the Board of Vazisubani Village Kolkhoz in Gurdzhaanskiy Rayon; D.V. Margvelidze, first secretary of the Georgian Komsomol Central Committee; M.M. Khananashvili, director of the Georgian SSR Academy of Sciences Physiology Institute; A.I. Datashvili, leader of a team of assembly workers with "Tbiltonnelstroy"; R.D. Chkheidze, director of the "Gruiziya-film" movie studio; I.T. Musayev, former team leader on Gardabanskiy Rayon's Gachianskiy Sovkhoz, now a student at the Baku Higher Party School; Sh.A. Amonashvili, director of the Georgian SSR Ministry of Education's pedagogical sciences research institute, G.D. Lordkipanidze, chairman of the Union of Theater Figures of Georgia; A.S. Sulakauri, chief editor of the newspaper MNATOBI; D.I. Chkhikvishvili, Georgian SSR minister of higher and secondary specialized education.

The plenum adopted an appropriate resolution on the question discussed.

The plenum participants ratified the republic's comprehensive programs "Cadres," "Georgia: Science, Technology, Quality-90," and "Recommendations for Strengthening Discipline and the Broadening and Deepening Democratism."

The plenum also ratified the statistical account of the composition of the Georgian party organization as of 1 January 1987.

The plenum examined organizational questions.

The plenum elected A.N. Glurdzhidze secretary and member of the Bureau of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and confirmed his appointment as chief of the Central Committee's Construction and Municipal Services Department.

The plenum released T.I. Mosashvili from the duties of candidate member of the Bureau of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee in connection with his retirement on pension, expressing gratitude to him for his many years of active work on the bureau's staff.

In connection with I.O. Andriadze's election to the post of acting chairman of Tbilisi Gorispolkom the plenum relieved him of the duties of administrator of affairs of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee.

T.D. Ramishvili's appointment to the post of administrator of affairs of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee was confirmed.

In connection with R.V. Memarnishvili's transfer to the post of general director of the "Tavtavi" science and production association and director of the scientific research institute of cultivation the plenum relieved him of the duties of chief of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee's Agriculture and Food Industry Department.

Yu. D. Ubilava's appointment to the post of chief of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee's Agriculture and Food Industry Department was confirmed.

V.A. Kondratyev, chief of a CPSU Central Committee sector, took part in the work of the plenum.

The plenum materials will be published in full in the press.

PRAVDA UKRAINY SUMMARIZES OBKOM PLENUMS

AU131201 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 May 87 p 1

[RATAU report: "Obkom Plenums Held"]

[Text] The tasks of oblast party organizations in deepening restructuring and improving cadre work in conformity with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum were examined at the recent plenums of Voroshilovgrad, Zaporozhye, Ivano-Frankovsk, Kirovograd, Crimean, Lvov, Nikolayev, and Khmelnitskiy Obkoms.

Accountability reports were delivered by the following obkom first secretaries: I.A. Lyakhov in Voroshilovgrad, A.P. Sazonov, I.N. Zaporozhye, I.G. Postoronko in Ivano-Frankovsk, N.I. Samilyk in Kirovograd, V.S. Makarenko in Simferopol, Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member, in Lvov, L.G. Sharayev in Nikolayev, and V.C. Dikusarov in Khmelnitskiy.

The plenums were addressed by V.S. Shevchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, in Kirovograd; A.A. Titarenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and second secretary, in Khmelnitskiy; B.V. Kachura, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, in Zaporozhye; I.A. Mozgovoy, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, in Nikolayev; Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Council of Ministers first deputy chairman, in Simferopol; V.A. Sologub, UKrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Trade Union Council chairman, in Ivano-Frankovsk; and S.I. Gurenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo candidate member and secretary, in Voroshilovgrad.

Participating in the plenum proceedings were responsible functionaries of the CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committees.

BAGIROV SPEAKS AT AZERBAIJAN ECONOMIC AKTIV

LD210101 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 20 May 87

[Text] The tasks of Azerbaijan's party, soviet, and economic bodies in implementing of the Party Control Committee (KPK) at the CPSU Central Committee on serious shortcomings in the fulfillment of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, on improving training of skilled working personnel in the vocational-technical education system, and on implementing vocational school reform in the Azerbaijan SSR were discussed today at a meeting of the republic's party-economic aktiv. A report by Comrade Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijani Communist Party Central Committee, and other speeches noted that the level of personnel training so far has not met the requirements of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum. As yet, not all leaders have drawn the necessary conclusions from party requirements on the need to develop the system of vocational-technical education. The potential for implementing a transfer to universal vocational education for young people is not being fully utilized. Measures aimed at realizing tasks resulting from the decisions of the KPK at the CPSU Central Committee were approved.

COMMITTEE REPRIMANDS AZERBAIJAN EDUCATION OFFICIAL

LD132219 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The Committee of Party Control at the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party has strictly reprimanded the head of the State committee for Vocational Training of Azerbaijan, Isayev, for major shortcomings in the education of skilled workers in that Transcaucasian Republic.

Deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee of Azerbaijan, (?Farazev), was also reprimanded.

SEVERAL OBKOM FIRST SECRETARIES REPLACED

Terebekov Elected in Chimkent

LD161059 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] A plenum of the Chimkent Obkom of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, which examined an organizational issue, took place today.

Comrade Terebekov, who worked as a chairman of the Executive Committee of the Kustanay Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies, was elected the first secretary of party obkom.

Comrade Kubashev, second secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Kazakhstan, took part in the work of the plenum.

Bakatin Elected in Kemerovo

PM111541 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 87 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Obkom Plenum"]

[Text] Kemerovo, 7 May -- A CPSU obkom plenum held here today discussed an organizational question.

V.V. Bakatin was elected first secretary of the obkom, previously having held the position of first secretary of the Kirov party obkom.

G.P. Kharchenko, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, took part in the plenum's work.

Vlasenko Elected in Smolensk

PM201527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 May 87 Second Edition p 2

[Correspondent N. Popinako report: "Plenum Held"]

[Text] Smolensk, 19 May -- A Smolensk Obkom plenum was held today to examine an organizational question. The plenum released I.Ye. Klimenko from his duties as first secretary of the CPSU obkom in connection with his retirement on pension.

A.A. Vlasenko, who was working as chief of a sector of the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Department, was elected first secretary of Smolensk Obkom.

N.A. Zolotarev, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department, participated in the plenum's work.

YAROSLAVL OBKOM CHIEF REPLIES TO PRESS CRITICISM

PM210857 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 May 87 First Edition p 1

[Letter from I. Tolstoukhov, first secretary of Yaroslavl CPSU Obkom, under the "Response to Criticism" rubric: "'Kings Can Do Anything'"]

[Text] Yaroslavl CPSU Obkom reports that the article "Kings Can Do Anything," published in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on 22 March 1987, has been discussed at the party obkom bureau.

The oblispolkom health department (former chief Lozinskiy) did indeed flagrantly violate party principles in work with cadres and give protection to leaders who were violating the norms of party life, abusing their official position, and committing acts punishable by law. Reports on the state of affairs distorted the real situation, shortcomings in work were covered up by reference to "objective" causes, and a depraved atmosphere of self-glorification and total license was cultivated. The material and technical base of the health service has been slow to develop over the last few years. In its existing form the network of medical establishments makes it difficult to give timely clinical attention to the population, and the quality of medical aid and preventive measures remains low.

In 1986 Lozinskiy was expelled from the CPSU for flagrant breaches of party principles in work with cadres. Mrs Lozinskaya had earlier been expelled from the party for misappropriating state funds and taking bribes.

The CPSU Obkom Bureau named Comrade S.N. Ovchinnikov, deputy chairman of the oblispolkom, for mistakes in work with cadres, failure to exercise control, uncritical assessment of the state of affairs, and a formal approach to the scrutiny of letters. His application for retirement was taken into account.

Comrade I.I. Tsymbal, chief of the CPSU obkom department for science and educational establishments, was reprimanded and Comrade Yu.N. Vinogradov, an instructor in the department, was severely reprimanded for slackness in control and reduced demandingness toward medical institution cadres. It was taken into account that Vinogradov had held two posts for 6 weeks in 1981 while working as an instructor for Yaroslavl Gorkom, with the gorkom secretary's authorization, for half a doctor's rates. It was noted that the oblispolkom had severely censured gorispolkom chairman A.I. Rabkov for serious shortcomings in the leadership of the city's health service; and the CPSU Gorkom Bureau had severely reprimanded Comrade V.V. Minayev, former chief of the city health department, for serious shortcomings in work with medical cadres and failure to take stkeps to develop the material base. Comrade G.P. Kharitonov, chairman of Kirovskiy Rayispolkom, was given a strict warning about his poor control over the development of the material and technical base of the region's medical establishments, his shortcomings in work with cadres, and his ignorance of the situation.

By decision of the Krasnoperekopskiy CPSU Raykom Bureau Comrade Zh.F. Cherepenina, former deputy chief of the city's health department, was given a severe reprimand and had her report card endorsed for using her official position for personal purposes.

The serious shortcomings in work with medical cadres and the low level of activity of medical establishments' primary party organizations was pointed out to Comrade V.A. Kovalev, first secretary of Yaroslavl CPSU Gorkom.

The attention of Comrade L.S. Plekhanova, secretary of the obkom, was directed to the need to step up monitoring and heighten the demands in cadres to improve medical services for the population. Similar demands were expressed regarding oblispolkom (chairman -- V.F. Gorulev).

The CPSU obkom bureau requested the science and educational institutions department and the CPSU gorkoms and raykoms to restructure, in accordance with the demands of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, the practice of work on the selection, placement, and education of medical cadres, and to increase the role of primary party organizations in improving educational work with medical personnel, strengthening party and state discipline, and eliminating instances of a formal attitude to the population's signals regarding shortcomings in medical services. The demand was expressed for the need for effective monitoring of the execution of plans for the construction of health service facilities.

The CPSU obkom bureau placed the fulfillment of the adopted resolution under a constant monitoring process.

The CPSU obkom bureau believes SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's objective criticism of the shortcomings will play a positive role in restructuring work to provide medical services for the oblast's population.

I. Tolstoukhov, first secretary of Yaroslavl CPSU Obkom

WRITER CALLS FOR RETURN TO 'HEALTHY STABILITY' IN PROSE

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 p 3

[Article by Petr Proskurin: "Eternal Field"]

[Text] The inner life of the people is liable to the replacement of one condition by another. It is characterized not only by revolutionary impulses determining whole eras of movement and development but also periods of stagnation, which subsequently must be forced open with considerable strain.

Literature also develops with as much difficulty and uneveness. Various seams are interwoven therein -- the past grows into the present and the future, and one, seemingly, impedes another. Ultimately, all acquire definiteness and begin to resound as part of the continually moving and changing whole....

In our prose continuous changes and updatings are also under way, the writer's social view becomes stricter and sharper and a truly realistic perception of life shows through less disguised. We would recall if only the works concerning the mutual relations of man and the soil and the devastating invasion (which has now assumed a worldwide nature, incidentally) of the sanctum sanctorum of nature -- the ecological systems of whole vast regions, systems which had evolved over millions of years. Our literature sounded the alarm long before the onset of crisis situations. With the appearance of the latest novels of I. Akulov, "Pardon for Error," and B. Mozhayev, "Husbands and Wives" (book two) one is persuaded even more that past, present and future are indissolubly linked and that the experiments, unforgivable in their ignorance, which many times severed the peasant's ties to the land, will not be remembered in a kindly way for a long time to come.

Literature is a mirror of life, but it is organized somewhat differently from life itself. A most important part in creativity is played by an artist's talent and his perception of the world.

Mention needs to be made here, primarily of current affairs writing, which has long been conducting an in-depth quest in our country. Of course, this quest pertains not only to one agro-industrial committee or industrial question: current affairs writing tries to encompass the inspiration and failures here, but until recently, unfortunately, it was in the strategic areas that current affairs writing was continuing to mark time in narrow-dimensional positions. Then literature's heavy artillery unexpectedly struck (unexplectedly if we disregard the more than decades of the most intensive work of prose, which had attempted to understand and interpret what was happening with the people, the land and the man in the city). Works appeared which immediately attracted broad public attention and which gave rise to debate. Yu. Bondarev's "The Game," V. Rasputin's "Conflagration," V. Astafyev's "The Dismal Detective," V. Belov's "All in Front," Ch. Aytmatov's "The Block" -- the most fashionable artillery gages were brought into play -- were published virtually at the same time. They struck mainly at the most pressing questions and trends, attacked with the fervor of young, seemingly, unseasoned gunners who had fallen upon such powerful weapons for the first time. [paragraph continues]

They struck, in my opinion, not deep at the enemy's defenses but at the closest, most visible targets, blindly almost, for which reason there are many superficial hits, like from the shearing explosion of a mine; all around is mowed up and shaved clean, but, I believe, the holes from the explosions are not that great, and the spring sinews have hardly troubled anyone. Except that Bonarev began purposefully to plant the volleys in one and the same place -- the spiritual degradation of a certain part of the creative intelligentsia -- Belov, on the other hand, precision torpedoed the increasingly intensifying disintegration and fragility of the modern family.

Speaking of "Conflagration" and "The Dismal Detective," I would like to mention that these are, in my view, journalistic essays of manners saturated with a vast amount of actual negative material. It is incomprehensible why it is necessary to proclaim them standards of artistic merit: there is no need for this at all.

The stream itself of current affairs books which has descended on the reader recently would seem to me natural. It also contains a reaction to the long compulsory taboo in the illustration of many aspects of reality. It also contains, I believe, the subconscious desire, when this taboo was lifted, to share with the reader as quickly as possible one's own confession and pain. But, in general, the journalistic nature of contemporary prose may be explained by a natural endeavor to more quickly convert the facts of reality into facts of literature. This is reminiscent of bold vanguard spurts aimed at conquering a new thematic and intonational beachhead, holding and subsequently developing the success is possible only for more solid (primarily qualitatively and not quantitatively) reserves and forces. It is important here, I believe, to avoid both shallowness of subject matter and unformed and rough topics.

The critically negative current affairs writing summoned into being by the cardinal restructuring in society, this devastating, but healing journalism, has been opportune, as a bitter and nonetheless necessary medicine. Something else is true also: That which is living cannot develop without a positive charge, and the moral health of the people is incapable of being strengthened without an ideal always present in the depths of life and perceived as some primal center.

Time is needed for determination of the true value of a work. Reading hasty exclamations concerning this latest allegedly great work or the other, one simply wonders: Why is everyone in such a hurry? Nature is, after all, wise, and nothing will appear before its apointed time, even the very fast-maturing fruit fly, which has not gained extensive renown owing to the struggle in genetics. Do we not attach too much significance to our literary battles, do we not devote too much in the way of forces and time to them? After all, the main events are occurring in life itself, in the fields and at the plants, in the heart of the people -- where the fate of the restructuring is now being decided. This is what should not be lost sight of....

I shall return to what troubles me particularly. For quite a long time now a trend has been observed in our literature toward the gradual disappearance of the creating, building hero. Of course, this had to have happened given the stagnant position of social thought of the past two decades. A cohort of interesting, distinctive writers, who have reflected in their work a generation which has not realized itself for a number of objective and subjective reasons, has arrived. No, this generation has not known the fear of repression, but has proven to be one with profoundly hidden reflexes. Among such writers who have had new stories and novels published recently are G. Semenov, A. Kim, R. Kireyev, S. Yesin, V. Makanin.... Their heroes are closely connected with the city, the worker population and art.

Another tract of prose connected with this school are the new works of A. Kurchatkin, O. Poptsov, A. Afanasyev, G. Nemchenko, V. Amlinskiy, Yu. Polyakov, V. Shugayev, L. Belyayeva, M. Ganina, S. Shurtakov.... Each of these authors merits a separate comprehensive discussion, of course. But they also have something in common: A perception of the fleetingness of time. The creating hero is absent, as a rule. In the public eye, as before, is disorderliness and spiritual turmoil, and it is no accident that Granin's "The Diehard," at the center of which is the personality of a creative scientist, who is striking, although contradictory and capable of evoking the most varied evaluations, stands out against the background of such literature.

I am far from underestimating "angry" literature, but another kind of yearning cannot fail to be noticed in the people also -- a yearning for a healthy stability, a desire to climb higher and look further. Is this not so?

Further, our literary monthlies and weeklies have thrown themselves in eager rivalry into finding and publishing works of previous decades which for one reason or another were not published or which were earlier published in the West. More often than not they return the reader to a life which has long since died. However, a work of such gifted power as "The Master and Margarita" has not yet been discovered and hardly will be discovered. In this regard is it not time to ponder: Is it worth so generously giving over the space of journals intended primarily for the publication of new works of literature to old works and not always successful poetry and prose? Would it not be better publishing all that merits attention as individual books -- even, perhaps, in an appropriate series such as "Literary Monuments"? After all, these voices, which have been muffled by whole eras of, in turn, dead passions, cataclysms, tragedies, accomplishments and defeats, belong, nonetheless, to the past. Attempts to inscribe them in the continuously living literary process, in today's context -- whether we like this or not -- not only slow down the course of this process but also introduce to it the faint smell of some literary necrophilia.

No one knows the secret of creativity, but no one would dare deny that creativity in human destiny is stronger than disintegration and destruction. Otherwise man's life would become altogether meaningless even in the philosophical aspect. The spiritual life of the people, which is self-expressive in literature also, is born and created in the very spontaneity of the popular soul, which is eternally changeable, elusive and subject to no one individually.

The world is changing rapidly, and the counting of world time since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, since the timme of the Chernobyl tragedy, has been entirely different in the heart of any honest, progressive artist. The world is overflowing with negative emotions, and it is not yet known with what spiritual improverishment the situation is fraught. Drug addiction, pornography, mass culture, AIDS -- over all these and over many other negative developments looms the possibility of the fatal chance of global nuclear war -- is this not enough for one planet -- small and, on the whole, not defenseless against the crimes of its children?

I would like to dwell on a number of works of a totally different tone inherent in the humanitarian traditions of Russian and world prose which has appeared recently. I would cite the books of S. Alekseyev, "The Swarm," M. Shukin, "A Name for the Son," A. Buylov, "The Tiger Hunts," V. Lichutin, "The Wanderers," Yussuf Samed-Ogly, "Day of Execution," Yu. Sergeyev, "The Backbone" and R. Seysenbayev, "The Forgotten Cry". These works, it seems to me, have not only announced the start of a new wave of a high-quality realism which is healthy in its perception of the world but have also corroborated the normality of the arrival of gifted, original artists from the depths of the life of the people. [paragraph continues]

I shall touch on just two novels -- "The Swarm" by S. Alekseyev and "A Name for the Son" by M. Shukin, which bear the most ardent breath of our reality and the social changes which have begun in our country. There is not only artistic penetration but also the capaciousness, richness and plasticity of the authors' language, truly novelistic thinking and intrepidity in the face of life and its processes.

In the novels "The Swarm" and "A Name for the Son" the authors have come close to creating large-scale characters of socially active heroes from the heart of the people, those on whom the difficult business of reconstruction new depends. This is a good sign for the further development of our literature.

SERGEY ZALYGIN VIEWS WRITERS' 'RESPONSIBILITY'

PM141119 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 7 May 87 First Edition p 2

[Interview with NOVYY MIR Chief Editor S. Zalygin by Nikolay Dobryukha: "The Word in Action" -- no place or date of interview given; first paragraph is unattributed introduction]

[Text] The writer Sergey Zalygin is a USSR state prizewinner, chief editor of the journal NOVYY MIR, and author of the widely known novels "On the Irtysh" [Na Irtyshe], "The Salty [River] Pad" [Solenaya Pad], "The Commission" [Komissiya], and "After the Storm" [Posle Buri], which reflect the events of the Revolution, the Civil War, and our days in Siberia. Our correspondent Nikolay Dobryukha asked the writer to answer a number of questions connected with the contemporary state of literature and with restructuring processes in the spiritual sphere of society's life.

[Zalygin] Our literary generation has successors to whom the baton of the artist's concern for future life on earth can be passed with a clear conscience. Like, for example, Valentin Rasputin, they are a quarter of a century younger than us, they are in their prime, and we are working shoulder to shoulder right now. Why do I believe in them? A man can say many things, but the main thing is how he will act on his words. For the writer the act is, above all, his books. Not only his books but his actions and his position, since the writer not only writes but lives as well. It is good when all these constituents create in him something whole and not something fragmented, with each part having complete autonomy.

But now, do we have any successors among the very young? At the moment I cannot name anyone who has entered or is entering our literature now. This worries me.

Then...how can they emerge, your spiritual successors, the continuers of your particular work as a writer? They must emerge first of all through literary works. I came to know Valentin Resputin first as an artist, and only after that to believe in him as a man. This means that for me to recognize and also believe in some other writer, he must already be an artist in my eyes.

I often recognize today's aspiring literary people through their publications, which frequently do not appeal to me.... This is bad. Perhaps I myself am to blame: As editor of a journal I read too few books and too many manuscripts.

But there are other reasons. First, from the very beginning we somehow do not point our young people in the right direction. When the older generation and young writers get together to talk about literature, in the final analysis they all begin to talk not about literature but about their place in it. If this is to a certain degree pardonable in those who have already done something for art, it is completely unacceptable for the rest, and particularly for those who are only just starting out on their path. Nonetheless such conversations, ongoing or just beginning, are heard every day. I am convinced that they tell negatively on the formation of the young writer's personality. I even feel uncomfortable when I hear discussion about, let's say, who is being published and how. Or about what is truth and what is falsehood...

The question: "What is truth?" does not precede creative work. It is resolved by each writer specifically, in the course of that work. And not as it appears to some people: First I will resolve all the philosophical problems -- "What is the meaning of life?", "What is truth?", "What is falsehood?", "What is conscience?" -- and after that I'll begin to write. The artist must come to the answers to these questions according to his own conscience -- through his work and in the course of his work. It is the creative process itself that answers all these questions, and not the other way around. Such discovery in the course of writing is the artistic method by which the writer comes to know and to reflect life's truth. In relation to literature it is an odd thing to make a statement like: Let us first work out a program, and then we'll write according to that program. Literature is not industrial production, where one must operate exactly in this way and only in this way. What do we get? A person works out such a program -- what to write, how to write, where to publish, which reviewers to get hold of -- and it's as if he is already a writer. This is why the editorial offices of journals and publishing houses are stuffed with literary substitutes.

It is another matter when a gathering of young people is asked: "Which modern writers do you like, and why?" This is already a literary conversation, all the more so because literature is always specific. Philosophy, of course, can do without examples and be built on logic alone, but literary works are in themselves concrete examples of the manifestation of a philosophical attitude to life. By all means let us discover the philosophy of these works. What is true in them and what is not! Artists must be able, above all, to understand the philosophy of the specific word. Ideally, in exploring life, both the artist and the philosopher should ultimately come, albeit via different paths, to one and the same conclusion.

By starting from purely philosophical concepts, in my opinion, we decide beforehand the development of the creative process and we deprive it of the independence and freedom without which creativity ceases to be creativity.

I repeat: The genuinely honest and frank writer will ultimately come to the same conclusions on a given question as the genuine philosopher. That is why writers of genius are called prophets.

Second, perhaps I am not quite correct here, but I do not understand those who are straining at the leash to get into literature. This was never a problem for me. I was certainly not depressed by the prospect that I would never become a writer. I was a land reclamation engineer, a scientific worker, took my candidate of sciences degree, and was head of the department of land reclamation in Omsk for 10 years. My interest in my work gave and still gave me that freedom that is so essential for creativity. It is a pity that so many young people just entering the literary scene do not possess this freedom, because they are fettered by the aim of establishing themselves as writers come what may. That is, they must always be writing something, whether or not they have anything to say to people.

By the way, I still feel uncomfortable when people call me a writer. Say that I happen to make the acquaintance of traveling companions on a train. I even become embarrassed if I am suddenly recognized. The conversation changes tack immediately. I am at a disadvantage: I find out less from my interlocutor about himself. Other people call themselves writers without thinking about it. It is one thing when your books kindle an interest, and another when it is you yourself.

Once they become writers, many present-day authors break with their professions, and sometimes it becomes unbearably hard for them because they have turned creativity itself into a profession. Again I refer to my own experience. In this respect it is easier for me: even now, parallel with my writing, I work of necessity as a land reclamation engineer; and it is good that this profession helps my creativity, which in turn helps millions of readers to realize and hence also to avert the danger I see as an engineer in analyzing the actions of those who are ready to turn nature's planetary water circulation system into a universal water main.

When I address the problems of nature conservation, ecology, or land reclamation, I completely forget that I am a writer. The writer in me helps more than anything else to make the engineer's uneasiness universal. It is likely that by being a writer I have achieved more, because an engineer's opportunity to engage millions in his own struggle is, as a rule, very small. Of course, I am not indifferent to whether I am praised or panned with the words: "What kind of a writer is this man?"... If you set about a task, you have to do it in such a way that people will recognize its worth.

Unfortunately our literary youth is very short on such independence and unprogrammed creativity. All you hear is: I am a poet, I am a writer, so acknowldge me immediately. But in the history of literature, particularly Russian literature, the writer has not been only a professional man of letters. These were living people. Tolstoy or, for example, Lermontov were also Russian officers....

When you begin to analyze why some young men of letters rush to become members of the Writers Union, you most often discover to your chagrin that most of them are striving only to assert themselves and win the right to the prestigious position of a writer.

In any event writing is, above all, a responsibility. Let us take the problems discussed at our recent writers' congress. Are we satisfied with the results achieved by arguing for the salvation of nature, and in particular our rivers? No! On the one hand, the well-known resolution on this question, of course, sounded a warning on how catastrophic the consequences of hasty decisions can be. But, on the other hand, he authors of the project read this resolution as it suits them and are continuing their line as if nothing had happened, except that now they aim to obtain money not only for the project, as before, but also for an ecological study of the problem.

No, the calamity has not been ruled out. The project's authors are no longer even mentioning the fact that it has to be shut down. Not a word is said about how, above all, the local water resources must be used more economically and effectively, without any diverting of rivers. But they keep repeating, time after time, the phrase: Ecological study of the problem must continue....

Bearing in mind that SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA is a platform on which the attention of millions is riveted daily, I appeal from this platform to the sense of responsibility of those who are in charge of the environment, to ask them to put things in order...

I believe, furthermore, that the statewide restructuring process cannot do without great and diverse cultural events. Every effort to make the cultural achievements of the past -- say, architectural, sculptural, or literary monuments -- accessible to our time is a necessary process in the current restructuring, leading to our society's spiritual enrichment.

In this connection I wish to say that, in order to have unprejudiced horizons and a well-founded world outlook, we must know the variants of culture existing in the world (but genuine culture, and not the various trivia and imitations) and not worry whether their authors are people of our persuasion or not. The educated reader is not afraid of a work that contains views with which we do not agree. The critics must show themselves here, rejecting the empty words that are currently their hallmark and turning instead to the force of conviction. By the way, when Dostoyevskiy and Tolstoy were published, was everyone really in agreement about their works? Surely the whole point is to be able to take in to our socialist culture the undoubted artistic values existing in particular works. On the other hand, by getting to know such works the reader has the opportunity to judge our own achievements more rigorously. Thus it is not impossible that, when certain writers object to such publications, they are concerned above all about the competitiveness of their own creations. The reader will read such publications, make comparisons, and say: "What is Zalygin writing about here ... And what about this man, who did not get published before -- he really could write!" If that kind of fear is going to guide me in assessing artistic works, then the exercise is worthless. It is not work at all but something completely different.

A sense of proportion is, of course, essential in all this. Ninety-five percent of all our journal space, naturally, must be given to our contemporaries. After all, the journals are published for them.

Literature in our fatherland is a tremendous force. Its outpourings are its reaction to the main questions of existence, and responses to it are unequivocal. Awareness of the many great events of our history should probably prompt us to say: "In the beginning was the word." The word is the intellectual's action. The word in action!

BRIEFS

GORBACHEV CSSR VISIT CHRONICLED -- A brochure, "Visit of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on 9-11 April, 1987" has been issued. It contains speeches of Comrades Husak and Gorbachev at the dinner in Prague Castle, at the Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship rally in the House of Culture of the CSSR capital, as well as reports on conversations between the Soviet and Czechoslovak leaders, on the meeting of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee with leaders of the Slovak CP in Bratislava, and other documents, materials, and photographs bearing on the progress of the visit. The brochure has been published by Politizdat. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1520 GMT 27 Apr 87 LD]

KIEV PLANT EXPERIENCES QUALITY CONTROL PROBLEMS

PM151229 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 14, Apr 87 (Signed to Press 26 Mar 87) p 16

[Report by S. Borisova under the "EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA Control Post" rubric: "The Leader Loses Ground"]

[Text] Kiev -- The party committee session was a stormy one. And for good reason: The plant had failed to fulfill the January plan. The collective was not used to this: The "Kiyevtraktorodetal" production association Lepse had always had a fine reputation.

How could one of the leaders of socialist competition in the sector lose ground? There was a meticulous investigation. No one, not even independent control leader V. Tsokur, put forward the introduction of state acceptance as the chief cause of the failure, although it may have given the initial impetus.

During preparations for state acceptance it turned out that equipment in the third machine shop was not providing the requisite technical accuracy. But this can only be established on a test bed.

The Kiev workers should have received test beds from the "Bobruyskfermmash" plant back in November, intending to set them up in December so that as of 1 January all assemblies would come out of the shop without any trouble. But they were let down by the suppliers. Neither in December not in January did the requisite equipment arrive in Kiev. They had to do the job themselves. The collectives of the custom equipment shop and the mechanization and automation department joined forces and, using someone else's plans, with some of their own amendments, made the beds for testing reduction gears in a free running situation. The others arrived from Bobruysk at the end of January, and this enabled them to check the assemblies under load. It then turned out that the noise in the reduction gears exceeded the permissible level, and some other defects were found.

The defects naturally affect the enterprise's indicators and its economic well-being. But the Kiev workers did not lose heart. The engineers of the chief mechanic and technologist's department and the instrument builders got down to work. And the problem was solved.

Today no one has a quiet life at the plant, it is all go, but no one complains about his lot. The second machine shop has achieved record piston output for this year. Some 100 reduction gears instead of the former 60 are the daily norm at the third machine shop. There are considerably fewer complaints than before about unobliging suppliers and people are no longer seeking excuses for the January failure. At the party committee session Deputy General Director V. Gubar briefly stated:

"No one will understand us if we merely seek reasons for nonfulfillment of the plan. There is only one solution -- fulfill the plan."

UNFINISHED TRACTORS PILE UP AT MINSK PLANT

PM081005 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 16, Apr 87 (Signed to Press 9 Apr 87) p 9

[Report by O. Veremenyuk, correspondent of the plant newspaper TRAKTOR, under the rubric "State Acceptance: Quality, Rhythm, Discipline": "EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA Control Post: Let Down by Old Habits. Thousands of Machines Awaiting Dispatch to Clients at the Minsk Tractor Plant on the Eve of the Sowing Season"]

[Text] Minsk -- Thousands of "Belarus" tractors stretch in a long line by the entrance to the Minsk Tractor Plant. Made in February, in March.... State acceptance has banned their dispatch: The tractors are not fitted with locking devices so they can use tractor-mounted or tractor-trailed attachments.

There have been disruptions in subassembly deliveries in the past, but nothing on a scale like this...

Could this disruption have been foreseen? Apparently yes. During the last 2 years the Kurgan plant which supplied us with these devices notified us that it would be cutting down the production of locking devices as it would be switching to the manufacture of different output. According to this year's plan, Kurgan will dispatch to Minsk only 327,000 of these devices, which is hardly enough for half of the tractors.

Foreseeing this situation, at the end of last year the leaders of the USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building ordered the Minsk plant to make up the shortfall by using its own resources to manufacture the devices. Back in January I. Kuleshov, director of the Minsk Tractor Plant, issued an order to the effect that the necessary components would be manufactured by the production shops from the end of February. There was an urgent need to make the tools, duplicate blueprints and technical documentation, and supply the subdivisions with specialized equipment. But by the time production had used up all the lacking devices supplied by Kurgan, the plant's shops had still not produced a single device of their own. Targets were finally issued to the three shops only when the plant was choked with hundreds of unfinished vehicles.

V. Maymusov, chief of assembly unit No 3 showed me the section of the automated shop where the new components were being assembled. A small press squeezed against the wall, a workbench, and on it a box with finished locking devices. But they still cannot be fitted to the tractors: According to technological requirements, they have to be tested on two test benches -- one for low and one for high pressure -- and the plant has no such benches....

Meanwhile, unfinished vehicles roll off the conveyor belt. Following the state acceptance inspection, they sadly join the long line by the plant's north gate. It is painful to see this line.

Is it worth describing in such detail the difficult situation which developed at the Minsk Tractor Plant during the 1st quarter? At first glance, there is nothing unusual in it: We were let down by the production partners....

But I think that the true cause of the disruption lies elsewhere: We knew everything beforehand, and we should have prepared in good time! But we failed to do so, we were unprepared to produce the necessary components locally. The good old principle was applied: "We're bound to manage somehow...."

We did not manage. Old habits seriously let down the plant's collective under the new conditions.

SVERDLOVSK DRILL PLANT NEEDS RETOOLING

PM081447 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 7 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by URALSKIY RABOCHIY correspondent G. Saitov under the rubric "The Test of State Acceptance": "Why Is the Plant in a Deadlock"]

[Text] Sverdlovsk Oblast -- Last year's loss of the State Seal of Quality by a number of articles made by the Verkhniye Sergi drill bit pant resulted in a loss of profit amounting to R450,000.

"We are on the brink of financial collapse," Enterprise Director G. Blinkov makes no secret of his alarm.

Gennadiy Vasilyevich is in no way exaggerating. By the time he came to office in August 1986, the plant's indebtedness for boring instruments was almost equal to its monthly program. The Gosbank was threatening to transfer the enterprise to a special credit sytem. True enough, matters did not progress so far. Monthly plans started being fulfilled, but the annual results were not pleasant. There was a shortfall of R2 million in the manufacture of articles, the plan for contractual commitment deliveries was fulfilled 98.5 percent, and the prime costs of production rose. But the poor quality of production is the cause of particular alarm.

It is sufficient to look at the thermal section to see with one's own eyes that the situation could not be any different. The furnaces have aged excessively in 30 years. Built for the thermochemical processing of 240,000 drill bits a year, they actually handle more than twice as many.

"Related enterprises have been using gas-fired case-hardening for a long time now," Shop Chief V. Rybakov said. "We are still operating on fuel oil. They have automated the heat treatment process, while we largely use manual labor. We are 20 years behind."

Poor technical standards of production are typical not just for the thermal section. Reconstruction would seem to be the only way out. But it appears that it can be approached in different fashions.

A mechanical assembly production block, a forging shop, and a small series unit have been commissioned here since 1970. But the old technology was retained, and the new production units were fitted with obsolete equipment.

"How much do you think this item costs?" Foreman V. Vargin asked, showing a cone bristling with hard-alloy cutters. "Fifty rubles! Now look here: Two broken cutters, two incorrect applications, and -- reject!"

Opposite the foreman's cubicle, several assembly fitters were furiously hammering the famous cutters into openings drilled in the cones. Infernal labor, approximately 7,000 hammer strokes per shift. Who can guarantee the accuracy of each blow?

The Verkhniye Sergi drill bit plant's comprehensive retooling program for the 12th 5-Year Plan period envisages the introduction of six flexible lines for drilling openings into the cones. [paragraph continues]

The hard-alloy cutters will be driven in by 20 semiautomatic presses. Everything looks fine, apart from one thing: The equipment in question simply does not exist physically, someone still has to develop it.

Over the last 20 years, according to data by the Main Administration for Geology in the Tyumen Region, there has been virtually no increase in the work indicators for the three main types of conical drill bits. An improvement in design is necessary. This is particularly important now, because the drilling footage per drill bit is planned to increase 1.5-2 times in the 12th 5-Year Plan period. For the sake of attaining this goal, the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Boring Technology elaborated four programs for the development of new series-produced drill bits and the modernization of existing ones, including drill bits for the West Siberian oil and gas complex. But the implementation of these programs will produce only a 30-40 percent increase in drilling footage per drill bit.

So, what is happening? The contract for production and technology cooperation between the Main Administration for Geology in the Tyumen Region and the Verkhniye Sergi drill bit plant sets the task of developing, jointly with sectorial or academic institutions, high-speed drill bits whose durability would be 10-15 times higher than that of series-produced bits. Furthermore, the first prototypes ought to be tested already this year.

The elaboration and development of the new instrument, taking into consideration the requirements of the West Siberian oil and gas complex, will be undertaken by a special section of the West Siberian Scientific Research, Planning, and Design Institute for Deep Prospecting Boring Technology, planned to be set up in Verkhniye Sergi.

But the main factor for ensuring that all these plans and intentions materialize is that the Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building must seriously tackle the problems of improving the plant's technologies and its retooling.

STATE ACCEPTANCE SHOWS TOOL INDUSTRY SHORTCOMINGS

PM081219 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 16, Apr 87 (Signed to Press 9 Apr 87) p 9

[Article by Candidate of Economic Sciences M. Bashin, non-staff inspector of the USSR People's Control Committee, under the rubric "State Acceptance: Quality, Rhythm, Discipline": "Clear Awareness of Long-term Prospects"]

[Text] Moscow -- State acceptance has brought to light a chronic "disease" -- the neglect of technical documentation at numerous machine building enterprises. What are the leaders and workers in technical services doing under these conditions?

The measuring instrument made by Moscow's "Kalibr" Plant largely determines the high quality of machine building output. In 1986 the plant received 28 complaints involving 534 items worth R92,000. Tangible losses. An inspection carried out before the introduction of state acceptance showed that the plant is using technical documentation drawn up way back in...P972. Numerous amendments have been made to the documents determining the technical standards and quality of output and the control blueprints and normatives over this 15-year period. Not a single component can be found at the plant today which fully meets the current standards.

And yet, the cost of every mistake made when using the design and technological documentation is subsequently multiplied severalfold.

Hence the urgency attaching today to the need to introduce order in technology and to bring it to a point where it fully meets modern demands.

It is worth giving attention to the experience of the Ivanovskoye Machine Tool Building Association. Design documentation is handed over gradually there, as it is finalized. Initially it is developed for the basic and most labor-intensive components, and then it is passed on to technology experts who embark on their stage of work without wasting any time. This mobile system has enhanced the quality of development work and has shortened the project development cycle two to three times over.

The "Frezer" Plant -- an umbrella enterprise in the instrument making industry -- had to revise items which had been considered technologically sacred for decades on end after state acceptance officials "rooted out" the technical documentation. The blueprints had literally and figuratively been gathering dust.

State acceptance was introduced at "Frezer" considerably earlier than at the 1,500 enterprises which switched to it in January this year, and the experience accumulated there is more extensive than elsewhere Technical groups have been set up to review technologies. The introduction of state acceptance necessitated a critical evaluation of the situation without any regard for past merits. People there took no comfort from the fact that the plant had received no complaints about instrument quality before. Today it has to meet higher demands. This is why the enterprise is developing an accurate system of planned preventive maintenance of machine tools.

Three technological processes were previously used in the manufacture of drills: grinding, milling, and -- the most advanced -- plastic molding [plasticheskaya deformatsiya]. The introduction of state acceptance necessitated the manufacture of an additional quantity of helical milling machines. Now 60 percent of drills are produced according to more modern technologies. Output quality has improved.

A different line of action was chosen by leaders of the thermal automation plant under the "Manometr" Production Association. The plant produces control instruments which save thermal energy and are much needed by many sectors of the national economy.

Before the introduction of state acceptance, quality indicators were ensured here by the following "method": Emergency teams of repair workers were sent out whenever there was a threat of claims being filed by consumers. They "extinguished" the fire of slipshod work on the spot. Large amounts of money were spent, but the plan did "hit the mark." The USSR People's Control Committee investigated the plant. A stern order was issued by the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems. But the situation had not changed by the beginning of the year, when state acceptance was introduced. Just as before, the leadership's efforts boiled down to plan fulfillment at any cost. A large consignment of finished products was rejected in January. And yet former Director A. Zharkov concentrated all his energy not on eliminating the causes of slipshod work but on obtaining permits from the State Committee for Standards and the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems to manufacture output by obsolete technologies. He collected signatures from clients to back him up: We accept the deviations, they said The conclusion was logical: The director was dismissed from office.

Even though belatedly, the new leadership made the only correct decision -- it asked the sector's scientific research institutes for assistance, and they recommended new technology and helped in implementing specific organizational and technical measues to prevent slipshod work. Much attention is given to the guarantee service, which is staffed by shop and quality control section experts. The current standards, which had not been consulted for years, are now constantly referred to by the technical services.

And so, /some enterprise leaders, having studied the demands of state acceptance, are restructuring production, while others hasten to approach superior organizations with requests for temporary concessions and allowances for technical backwardness./ [passage within slantlines printed in boldface] It is evident that by no means everyone is aware that different methods of work are required today. The rigorous demands by the State Committee for Standards are fair, no matter how difficult it may be for enterprises' technical and production services to restructure themselves on the move. Those who fail to do this will inevitably be called to account. D. Tyagay, deputy chief of section in the USSR Ministry of Justice Economic Legislation Adminstration, explains the forms of ensuing liability. The law makes provision for criminal, administrative, disciplinary, and material liability in respect of deviations from specifications, technical conditions, or standards. The extent of punishment depends on the social danger of the violations. Over the last few months, leaders from a number of enterprises in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Moldavia, and other regions have been sentenced by justice administration organs for producing substandard output.

There can be no doubt that "Kalibr," "Frezer," and other enterprises will organize and renew their technical documentation. Even so, all this will produce only a partial effect. It is necessary to start thinking of the long-term prospect right now. This was the conclusion drawn at the Minsk Refrigerator Plant. They have launched a fundamental retooling of production, and advanced technologies are being introduced to ensure that output meets the highest demands also in the future.

Meanwhile, technological progress at many plants is being implemented mainly through partial modernization of previously manufactured output. Technical documentation from the seventies is being replaced -- which will take several years -- and meanwhile world technical standards for specific types of output will also advance by several years. We must resolutely abandon the role of permanently trying to catch up.

Here is an example. State acceptance was introduced at the "Krasnyy Proletariy" Plant from the beginning of this year. There has been some improvement of machine tool quality. But even back in 1986 the USSR People's Control Committee established that the machine tools produced by "Krasnyy Proletariy" today are obsolete and are below the latest modern models in terms of technical standards. This means that yesterday's output is still being produced, even though it meets approved standards at present.

Our output today is being tested for active susceptibility to advanced technology and high competitiveness in the world market. Therefore, it is necessary to show concern for the future without relaxing the urgency of the struggle for unconditional and rigorous observance of current standards and technological conditions of production. Using the best world models of output as guidelines, the State Committee for Standards, together with the State Committee for Science and Technology and the sector ministries, must swiftly develop standards which set not simply higher but actually advanced demands, and must help the national economy's sectors introduce them successfully.

A large-scale program of accelerating socioeconomic development is being implemented in the country. The introduction of state acceptance is one of the key elements in this incipient process. But enterprise leaders must be clearly aware of the long-term prospects. It is these prospects that must determine each collective's long-term program in the complex struggle for high quality of output.

ECONOMIST KUNELSKIY DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

AU200938 [Editorial Report] Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 19 May 1987 on page 7 carries an 800-word interview with Professor Leonid Kunelskiy, doctor of economic sciences, member of the Collegium of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, by Novosti Correspondent Aleksandr Voznesenskiy entitled "Test Through Restructuring." In the interview, the date and place of which are not given, Kunelskiy discusses the reasons for the unsatisfactory development of Soviet industry in the first quarter of the year when industrial production increased by 2.5 percent, instead of the planned 3.3 percent growth.

Kunelskiy attributes this development primarily to the failure of many managers to "adjust to work under the new conditions" and their continued tendency to wait for orders from above rather than showing their own initiative when problems arise. Other factors mentioned by Kunelskiy include the cold weather; the fact that the tasks of the 1987 plan are evenly distributed (in contrast to the past when the tasks planned for the first quarter were usually lower than those for the subsequent quarters); and the more rigid quality requirements.

Summing up, Kunelskiy maintains that restructuring is "beginning to yield the first positive results," even though "the greatest part of the work is still ahead of us."

CORRECTION TO FINANCE MINISTER GOSTEV INTERVIEW

The following correction to the item headlined "PRAVDA Interviews Finance Minister Gostev," published in the 1 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT on page S 2, is supplied from PRAVDA of 25 April:

Page S 2, last paragraph, line one reads: the tax will be R33 or 11.1 percent; with an income of R4,000 the tax at existing rates is R932 but will be R532 (13.3 percent of income),...(substituting "11.1" for "10.6" and "13.3" for 12.3")

PROGRESS-30 DOCKS WITH MIR ON SIDE OF KVANT MODULE

LD210835 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0810 GMT 21 May 87

[Text] Moscow, 21 May (TASS) -- At 9 hours 53 minutes Moscow time today, the cargo ship Progress-30 docked with the piloted Mir complex.

Mutual homing in, approach, mooring, and docking were carried out with the help of on-board automatic systems. These processes were controlled by the Flight Control Center in mutual interaction with the ground command-measuring complex and also with the cosmonauts Romanenko and Laveykin.

The Progress-30 ship has docked with the complex on the side of the Kvant module. Fuel for the unified engine installation of the station, foodstuffs, water, equipment, and apparatus, and also mail, have been delivered in orbit.

According to telemetry information data and reports by the crew, the on-board systems of the piloted Mir complex are working normally.

Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin are feeling well.

SYRIAN PILOTS PASS SPACE FLIGHT EXAMINATION

LD152227 Moscow TASS in English 1816 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS -- Syrian pilots Muhammed Faris and Munir Habib, who are training at the Zvezdny township near Moscow for a space flight, had a very happy day today -- they passed the preflight examination with an excellent mark unanimously awarded by the examination commission.

It is a little over two months to go before the space flight planned for July 22, this year. The pilots from Syria already have to their credit, 1,400 hours of training.

Together with the Soviet crew of the orbital station Mir they will carry out a vast and diversified program of scientific, naturalist, medico-biological and other experiments in the interests of the economy of their country.

The Soviet-Syrian crew will go for a flight in mid-summer, the wonderful time in the central part of the Russian Federation, and the crew's suits will be bright blue with colourful emblems -- the colour of the summer cloudless sky and motley Moscow suburb flowers.

RADAR PLANE ASSISTS NUCLEAR ICEBREAKER SIBIR

PM150924 Moscow TRUD in Russian 12 May 87 p 1

[Special correspondent S. Mostovshchikov report under the rubric "Looking at Events": "Winged Reconnaissance"]

[Text] Murmansk -- The nuclear ship Sibir must cross major expanses of ice on the way to high latitudes. It will have a reliable helper in an IL-18 aircraft, number 75449. [paragraph continues]

Equipped with a set of special apparatus for radar reconnaissance of the ice situation, known as "Nit," it will help the Sibir to forge the optimum route through the ice.

A moment ago the Kola Peninsula, covered with a dense stubble of fir trees, was visible below, but now endless blue, with patches of white clouds, was all around.

"The land has ended, we are over the sea," Yu. Nikitochkin said, nodding toward the band on the screen. He is a representative of the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation Scientific and Experimental Air Traffic Control Center and chief engineer for testing the "Nit" unit. "We have just switched on the system, and you see -- the screen shows there is clear, calm water below us."

In simplified terms, "Nit" is a sideways-looking radar system: The antenna sends out a signal, which is reflected from any obstacle and returns to the plane. From the strength of the returning signal you can tell the nature of the obstacle it has encountered: its density, the condition of the surface... For the signals, calm water is like a mirror -- they come back virtually unchanged. And the picture on the screen is a monotone band.

Soon the calm sea beneath us was replaced by a white sheet of ice, and we saw a black blob against this background. That was the nuclear ship Sibir.

And the voice of the aircraft navigator A. Lalykin at once rang out on the loudspeaker system:

"We are arriving at the reckoning position: 81 degrees north, 44 degrees east. Let us commence work."

A pencil line on the navigation chart sketched a large rectangle in the ocean to the northwest of Franz Josef Land. We were to work here.

The violet band on the instrument screen had long since become broken up, crisscrossed with dark veins...

"From this 'picture' we can determine all the characteristics of the ice," V. Loshchilov, senior scientific staffer of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control Arctic and Antarctic Scientific Research Institute.

The facsimile apparatus sucks the chart into its womb, and the image, translated into radio signals, speeds through the communication channels to the icebreaker. And the voice of A. Chilingradov, leader of the polar expedition and deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, comes on the air:

"We've got it, lads! We have received the chart on the icebreaker. All is well, thank you. That's enough for today. We await your assistance tomorrow."

Sibir Approaches Station

LD182343 Moscow TASS in English 1447 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Sibir Icebreaker May 18 TASS -- Having covered more than one thousand and a half miles, over half of the way in heavy ice of the central Polar Basin, the Soviet nuclear-powered icebreaker Sibir today approached the camp of the scientific station "North Pole-27" drifting on an icefloe. That happened in a point with the coordinates of 86 degrees 30 minutes northern latitude and 0.7 degrees 30 minutes western longitude, which has never been reached by a surface ship in an active voyage. The first stage of the voyage is successfully over. The evacuation of the station has begun. The expedition group has launched comprehensive observations over the Arctic nature in that unexplored area.

BRIEFS

AIDS RESEARCH CENTER -- Moscow has opened another center to study, prevent, and treat AIDS. Anyone can make an express blood test there. The Soviet Union has already outlined methods to diagnose AIDS and is working on an AIDS vaccine. The 32 AIDS cases revealed in the Soviet Union so far include 30 foreigners. [Text] [Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 19 May 87 LD]

SPACE TECTONIC MAP -- Moscow May 19 TASS -- Pictures received from satellites helped compile a space tectonic map of central and south-eastern Europe. The work was done by specialists of seven European CMEA member countries and Yugoslavia. The map will be published together with an explanatory note late in 1987-early in 1988 and will be, as the CMEA secretariat says, an important instrument for purposeful planning of geological prospecting. All this will eventually cut material and labour outlays in conducting exploration work in the European states of the socialist community. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0658 GMT 19 May 87 LD]

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT

Contents unchanged

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT

Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

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- Inter-African Affairs
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